安藤ゆきのコミックス
「もっと、生きたい…」上・下

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原作&プロデュース Yoshi
作画 安藤ゆき

もっと、生きたい…

上

MC MARGARET COMICS 別冊マーガレット

別冊マーガレット
MARGARET COMICS

「もっと、生きたい…」

上

原作 Yoshi
作画 安藤ゆき

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携帯電話への着信と同時に身体のパーツを奪う、謎のDOWNのメールが引き起こす猟奇事件。
転校生の被害者となった少女真由美は姉の元恋人神野とともに事件を追ううちに、かつてない恐怖の世界を垣間見る…!?

MC MARGARET COMICS 別冊マーガレット

●収録作品●
「もっと、生きたい…」

作者コメント 安藤ゆき

上巻は過激なシーンが多いので心の準備をお願いします。
(ってもう遅いですか)

「Motto, Ikitai...」

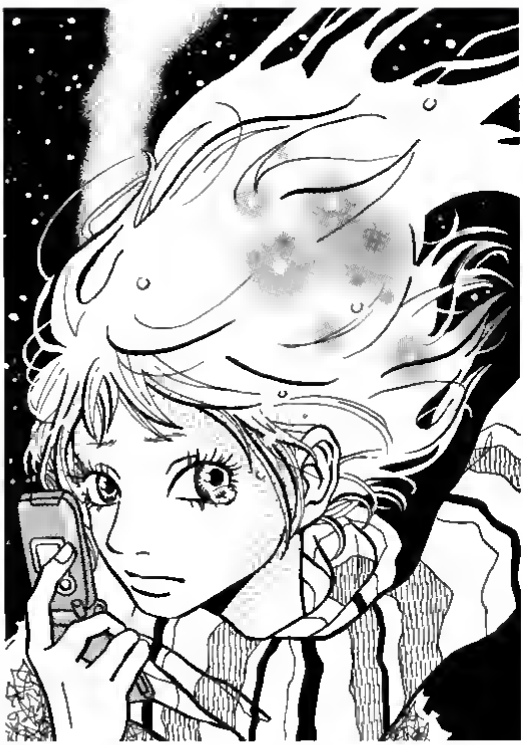
"I Want To Live On..." ①

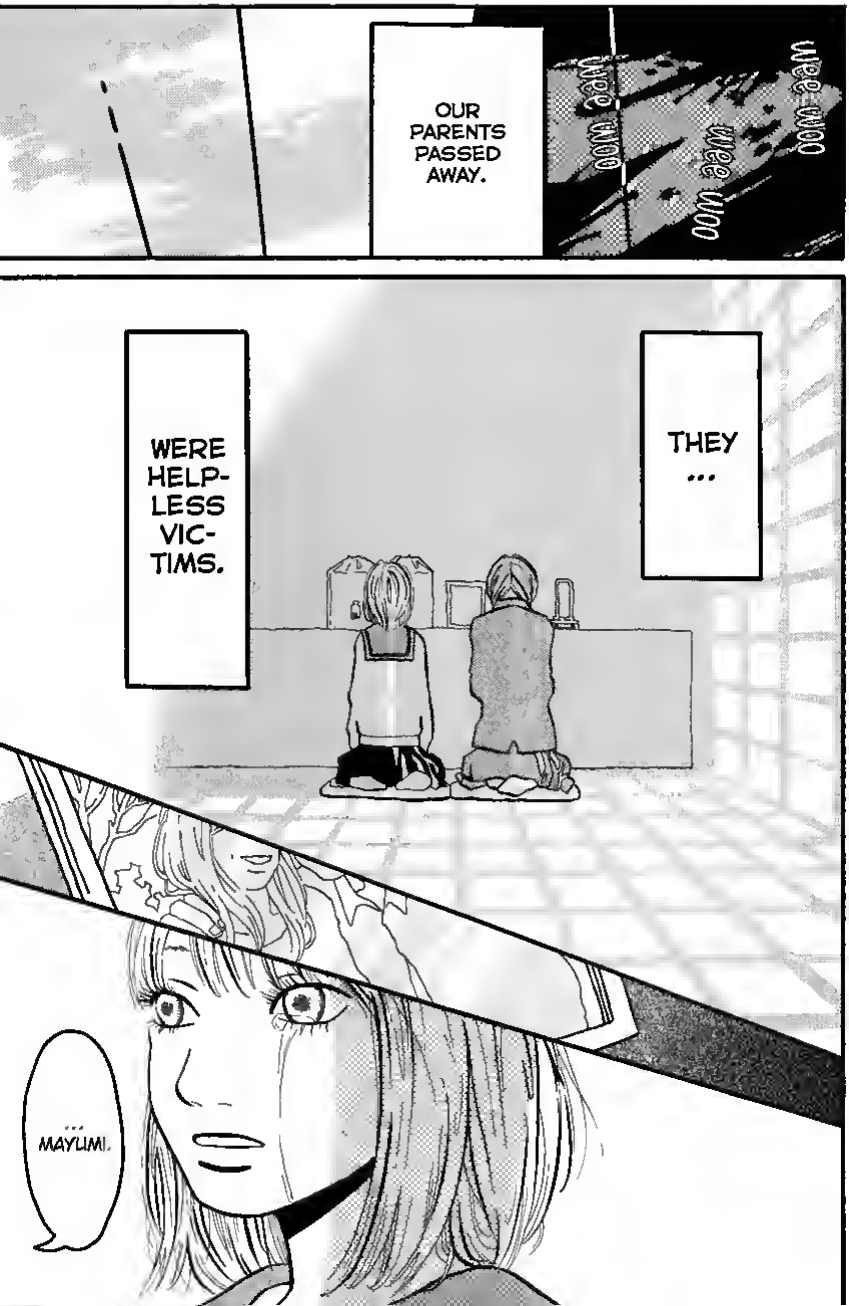
Written & Produced / Yoshi

Illustrated / Andou Yuki

IN FRONT OF MY EYES...
WOOO
THERE'S BEEN A CRASH! A CAR HIT THEM!
THE BOY DIDN'T HAVE A LICENSE
THE VIC-TIMS...
ARE ONE MALE, ONE FEMALE.
WOOO
WOOO
THE CAR...
—THEY DIED ON IMPACT.
... SIS...
LET ME GO...

Written & Produced / Yoshi
Illustrated / Andou Yuki




OUR PARENTS PASSED AWAY.
WEE WOO
WEE WOO
WEE WOO
THEY ...
WERE HELP-LESS VIC-TIMS.
... MAYUMI.

LET'S LET IT GO.
...AND IF WE CAN'T,
LET'S FORGET.
SINCE...
THE TWO OF US ARE ALIVE.
IT'S SO...
WE HAVE TO LIVE.

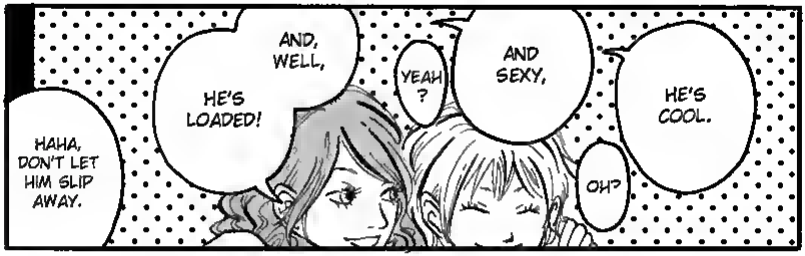
HEAVY.
HATRED, SORROW, AND RAGE...
TO CARRY ALL THAT AROUND AND GO ON LIVING ...

IT'S JUST TOO HEAVY.
THAT WAS THE WINTER OF MY FIRST YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.
I SHOULD LET THOSE FEELINGS GO.
I FIGURED ...
IT'S BEEN FIVE YEARS.
MORNING, MAYUMI.
— SINCE THEN,

I'M 18 YEARS OLD.
MORNING.
WAIT, WHOA! YOUR EYES!
LISTEN TO THIS!
YOU HAD ANOTHER FIGHT?
YEAH!
I'M THROUGH! HE'S SO DEAD!
ANY-WAY, I'M GOING TO THAT PARTY.
WANT TO COME, MAYUMI?
MM, I'LL PASS!
AGAIN?
IT'S USELESS!
SHE HATES GUYS.
THAT SAID, I'M GOING.
WHAT, WHERE WERE YOU HIDING?
HAHA.
I'M A NINJA—

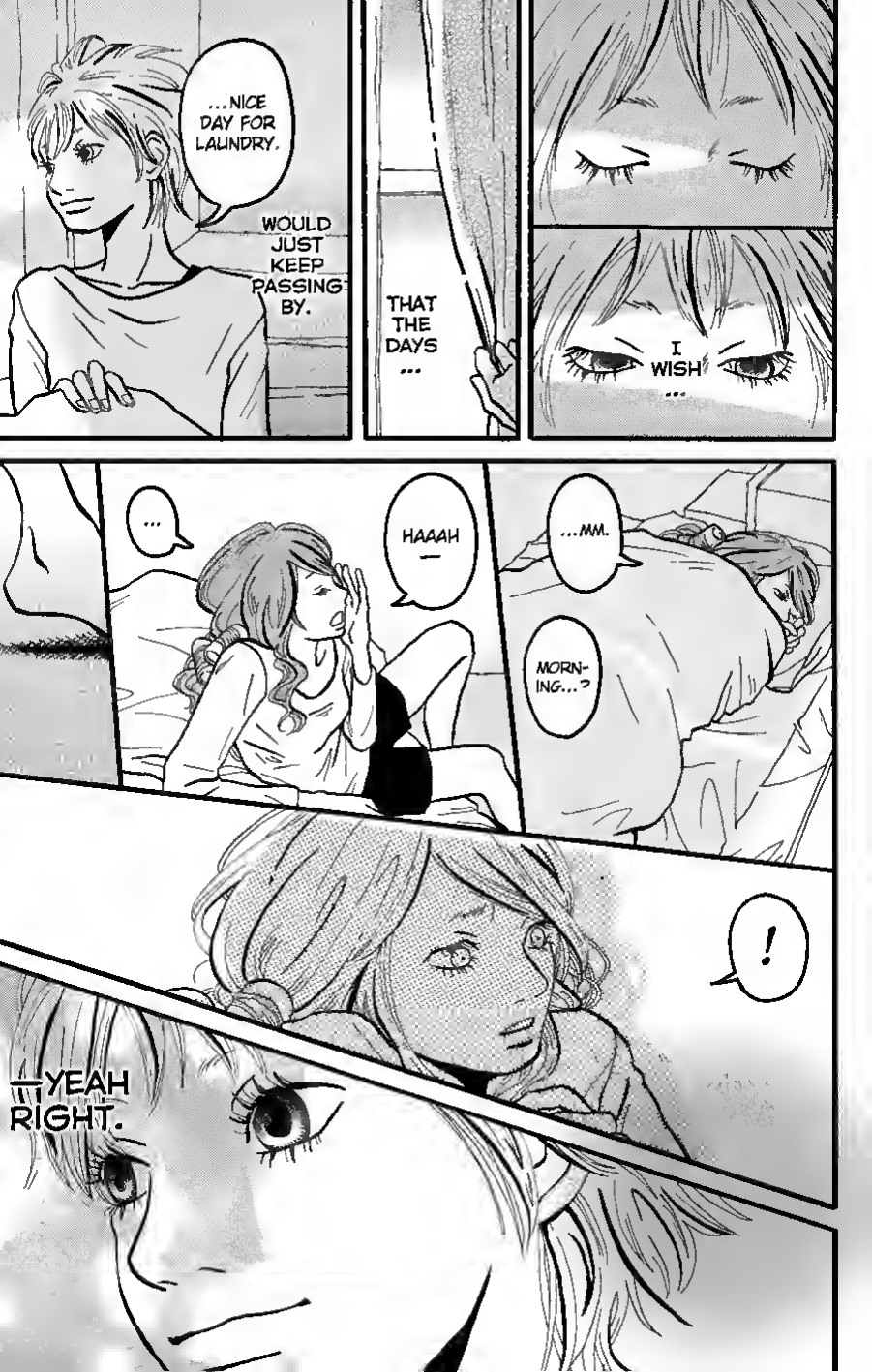
HEY, SIS.
HM?
WELCOME BACK.
clack
YEP
DID YOU LEAVE WORK EARLY TODAY?
SORRY, I'LL MAKE DINNER RIGHT AWAY.
I'VE GOT A DATE TOMORROW, SO I FINISHED EARLY.
...
REACH FOR LOVE! LOVE!
INSTEAD OF SAYING YOU HATE GUYS,
YOU KNOW, YOU...
HE'S A PERV?
SO'M I!
MY DARLING SAID...
THAT HE LIKES MY TOES, SO—
AHA—

IT'S NOT LIKE I HATE THEM...
I DON'T HATE GUYS...
FORGET ABOUT ME. TELL ME ABOUT HIM!
EHE HE
YOU'LL LISTEN?
THIS TIME THERE'S NO WAY I'LL LET YOU ESCAPE.
AH, YOU'RE IN MY WAY.


HE'S COOL.
AND SEXY,
YEAH ?
AND, WELL,
HE'S LOADED!
OH?
HAHA, DON'T LET HIM SLIP AWAY.

YEAH!
I'LL GET LUCKY SOON ENOUGH.
...I'LL BE PATIENT.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
Don't make fun of me!
IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T WANT TO FALL IN LOVE.

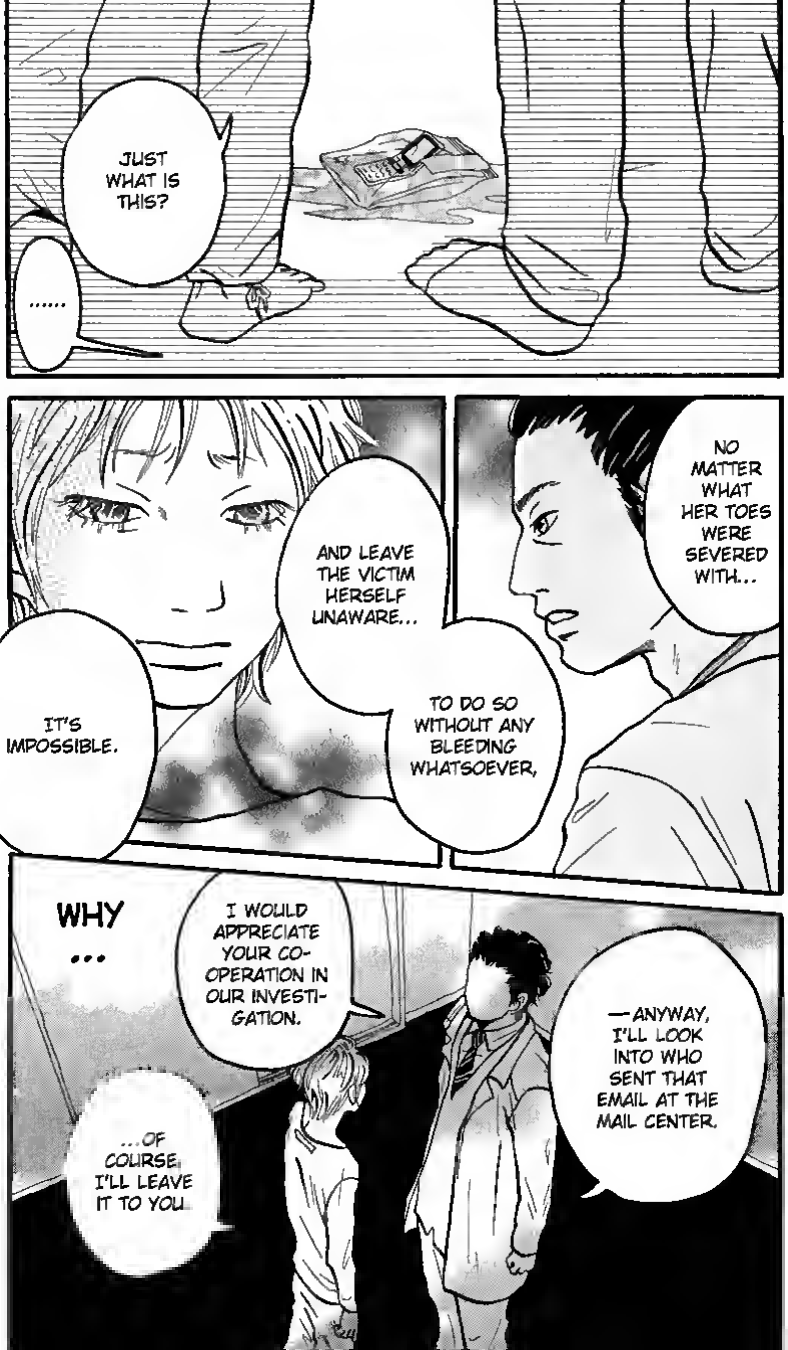
Subject: DOWN


...NICE DAY FOR LAUNDRY.
WOULD JUST KEEP PASSING BY.
THAT THE DAYS ...
I WISH ...
...
HAAAH—
...MM.
MORN-ING...?
!
—YEAH RIGHT.

AHHHHHHHH!
clatter
SIS!?
WHAT'S WRONG!?
MY...
TOES...
THEY ARE...
GONE...
—HUH?
!

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE SAYING THAT.
AHHHHHHH!
WHAT ...
IS THIS?
wee woo
wee woo

...THANKS FOR LOOKING INTO IT.
I'M IN CHARGE OF THIS CASE.
MY NAME IS HONDA.
...THOUGH UNTIL THEN, EVERYTHING SEEMED NORMAL.
YES.
—SO YOU HEARD YOUR SISTER YELLING AND WENT TO HER ROOM?
NO, NONE.
AND THERE WASN'T ANY BLOOD?
AND THE PRANK EMAIL...


JUST WHAT IS THIS?
.....
NO MATTER WHAT HER TOES WERE SEVERED WITH...
AND LEAVE THE VICTIM HERSELF UNAWARE...
TO DO SO WITHOUT ANY BLEEDING WHATSOEVER.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
WHY ...
I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CO-OPERATION IN OUR INVESTI-GATION.
—ANYWAY, I'LL LOOK INTO WHO SENT THAT EMAIL AT THE MAIL CENTER.
...OF COURSE, I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.

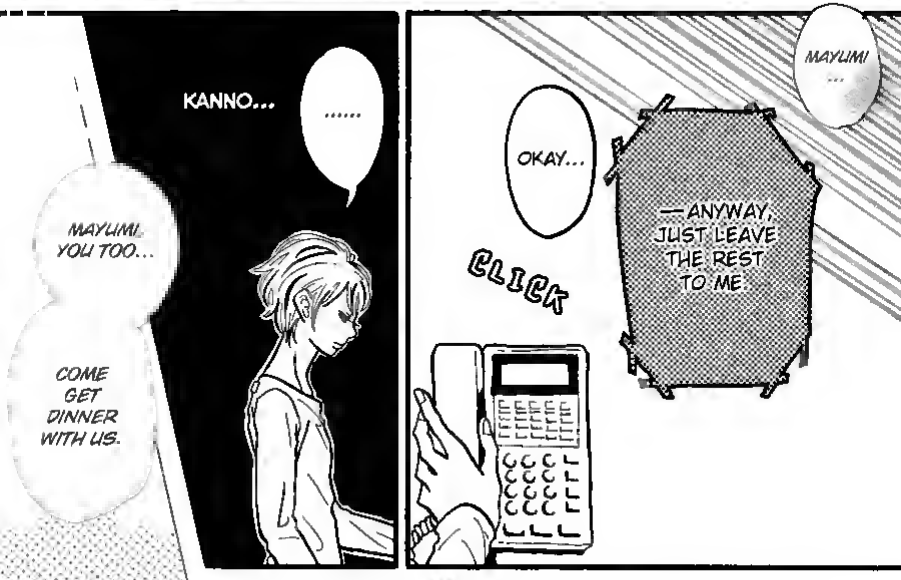
IS THE WORLD ALWAYS SO CRUEL—
Cyberphone Corporation
OH, THE DETECTIVE IS HERE
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M KANNO, A SUPERVISOR IN THE MAIL DEPARTMENT.
I'M HONDA, PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
THIS MAY BE ABRUPT, BUT THERE'S AN ADDRESS I'D LIKE TO INVESTIGATE...
THE PERSON WHO SENT AN EMAIL TO MS. TAKAHASHI RIKA.
HUH?

RIKA...?
SIS...
HURT AS YOU ARE...
MAKE SURE TO REST UP.
AND GIVE YOUR DREAMS OF CATCHING A RICH GUY ...
A REST AS WELL.
...HAHA
YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE...
A GOOD EYE FOR MEN, THOUGH.
I CAN'T.

WITH RAGE.
MY HAND IS TREMBLING ...
I CAN'T LET IT SHAKE ME.
I CAN'T LET IT ROCK ME,
I DECIDED TO LET THOSE FEELINGS GO.
MS. TAKAHASHI.
haaa
haaa
CALM DOWN!
HELLO, IT'S HONDA.
AH,
OKAY.
YOU HAVE A CALL FROM THE POLICE.

DO YOU KNOW...
A MAN NAMED KANNO?
OH.
KANNO?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN TO HIM?
YES, HE'S MY SISTER'S OLD BOY-FRIEND.
HE HAPPENS TO BE THE SUPERVISOR AT THE MAIL CENTER.
.....
HUH...
FOR REFERENCE, WHAT KIND OF A PERSON IS HE?
...HE WAS A NICE GUY, THE QUIET TYPE.
HAS RIKA BEEN IN CONTACT WITH HIM LATELY?
NO... I DON'T THINK SO.
I SEE..
IS... KANNO A SUSPECT?
WHY?

HEY,
MAYUMI.
EVEN IF HE SAYS THAT...
...SO WHAT DID HE SAY?
HE SAID IT MUST HAVE BEEN A HACKER
WHEN YOU SAY YOU LOOKED IT UP... YOU MEAN KANNO LOOKED IT UP?
YES, HE SEEMED SURPRISED AT IT HIMSELF.
!
THAT EMAIL WAS SENT BY MR. KANNO.
...WE JUST LOOKED IT UP.


KANNO...
.....
MAYUMI, YOU TOO...
COME GET DINNER WITH US.
MAYUMI ...
OKAY...
—ANYWAY, JUST LEAVE THE REST TO ME.
CLICK

OK?
HUH ...
I'M FINE, KANNO.
YOU TWO GO AHEAD.
DON'T BE SO COLD.
THE MORE THE MERRIER!
KANNO DID IT...?
I'M SORRY, RIKA...
TAKE CARE.
...
YOU TOO, MAYUMI.

THE KANNO...
SORRY.
THAT I KNEW?
.....
MY FEET ...
ding
dong
CLACK

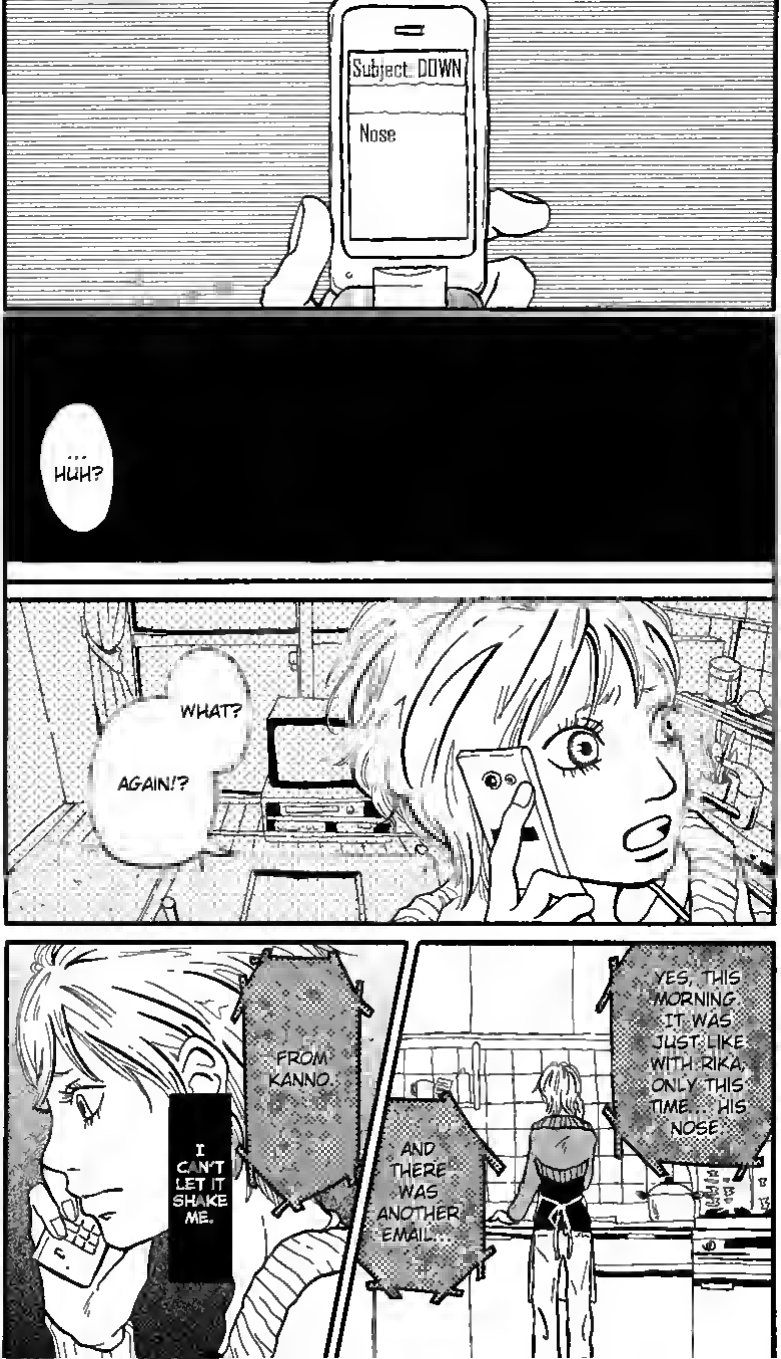
.....
...GOOD EVENING.
ARE YOU DOING WELL?
... MAYUMI.
JUST TOOK ME HERE ...
YEAH.
AND SAID YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SENT THE EMAIL TO HER.
THE DETECTIVE CALLED ME UP LATER,
IT...
WASN'T ME.
OH... YEAH.
A DETECTIVE CAME TO MY WORK TODAY...
AND SAID THAT SOMETHING HORRIBLE HAD HAPPENED TO HER...
OH! RIKA!
IS SHE OKAY? I MEAN, UM...

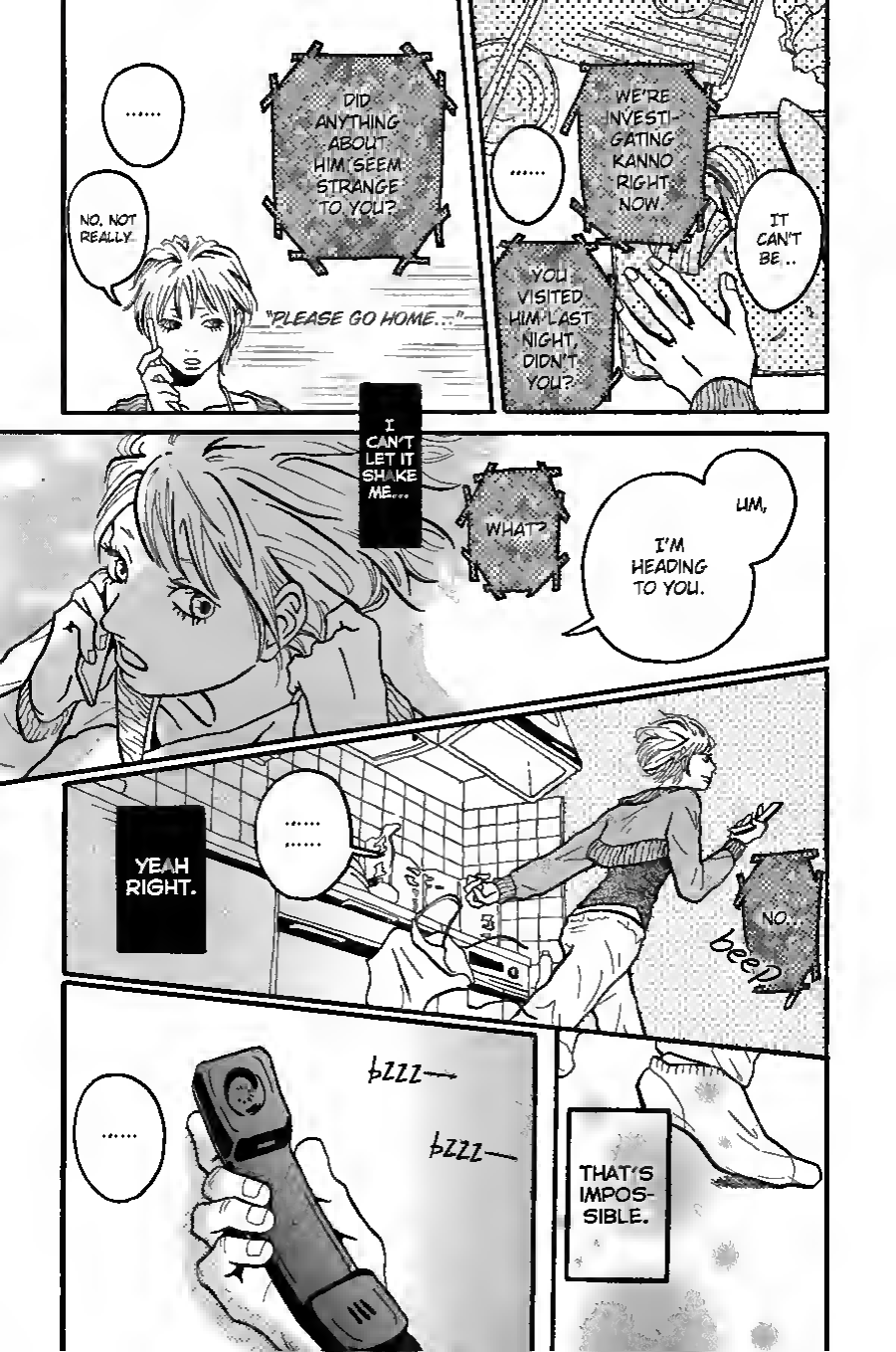
HE WAS MORE WORRIED ABOUT RIKA THAN ANYTHING ELSE.
...I FIGURED.
phew
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO'D DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT, EITHER!
SOMEONE USED MY ADDRESS ...
WITHOUT MY KNOW-LEDGE.
— BUT...
IT'S ALREADY LATE, AND I ALSO HAVE SOME THINGS I WANT TO LOOK INTO.
PLEASE GO HOME FOR THE DAY.
... THANKS.
BUT THE DETECTIVE ASKED ME LOTS ABOUT YOU,
SO I'M WORRIED.

SOME-
THING...
WASN'T
RIGHT
WITH HIM.
...I'M
SORRY.
HUH?
WAIT...!
.....
...
BUT...
CLACK
HE ISN'T
SOMEONE
...
HE'S THE
KANNO THAT
I KNEW.
HE HASN'T
CHANGED.

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT.
CLACK
WHO COULD DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT.
CLACK
... HOW...
HOW DID...
THESE THINGS...

GET HERE...!?
YAWN—
SURE.
OH, KAWAI. TAKE THAT OVER TO KANNO TOMORROW.
...AN EMAIL.
click
WHAT'S THIS?
.....
yberphone Corporation


Subject: DOWN
Nose
...
HUH?
WHAT?
AGAIN!?
FROM KANNO.
I CAN'T LET IT SHAKE ME.
AND THERE WAS ANOTHER EMAIL...
YES, THIS MORNING IT WAS JUST LIKE WITH RIKA, ONLY THIS TIME... HIS NOSE.


.....
DID ANYTHING ABOUT HIM SEEM STRANGE TO YOU?
NO, NOT REALLY.
"PLEASE GO HOME..."
.....
WE'RE INVESTIGATING KANNO RIGHT NOW.
IT CAN'T BE..
YOU VISITED HIM LAST NIGHT, DIDN'T YOU?
I CAN'T LET IT SHAKE ME...
WHAT?
UM, I'M HEADING TO YOU.
YEAH RIGHT.
.....
.....
NO...
beep
.....
bZZZ—
bZZZ—
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

...I DIDN'T DO IT.
CLACK
IT LOOKS LIKE MAYUMI WILL BE COMING.
BUT...
THE VICTIM THIS MORNING WAS ALSO AN ACQUAINTANCE OF YOURS, CORRECT?
WELL, WE'LL HAVE TO BE PATIENT UNTIL THEY FINISH SEARCHING YOUR HOUSE.
.....
AND YOU HAVE NO ALIBI.
...YES.
..HONDA.
MOST LIKELY MEANS "DOWNLOAD".
I THINK THAT THE SUBJECT "DOWN"...
...I SEE.
BUT WHO WOULD DO THAT?
LIKE YOU'D ACQUIRE A SONG ONLINE.
MAYBE IT'S BEING USED TO MEAN ACQUIRING A BODY PART...

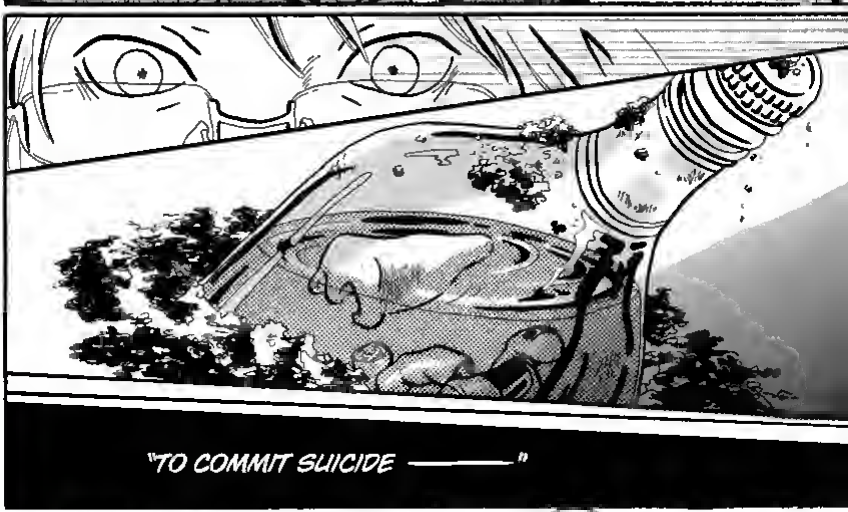
HOW?
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SOMEONE HACKED INTO MY MAIL SERVER.
NO.
AREN'T YOU THE ONLY ONE...
THAT ...
I DON'T KNOW.
WHO CAN SEND EMAIL FROM THAT ADDRESS?
MAIL SERVERS ARE PROTECTED FROM EXTERNAL ACCESS BY PASSWORDS AND CIPHERS.
HOWEVER, A SKILLED HACKER SHOULD BE ABLE TO PARSE THEM OUT.
HOW SKILLED A HACKER?
VERY ...
NO.
I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF SKILL.
COULD SOMEONE LIKE YOU, WHO'S IN CHARGE OF MAILING, DO IT?

click
.....
DETEC-TIVE.
IT SEEMS ...
THAT THERE ISN'T ANYTHING AT YOUR HOUSE.
!
YOU'RE CLEARED TO GO HOME. HOWEVER—
THIS HARDLY TAKES YOU OFF OUR SUSPECT LIST.
KANNO!

MAYUMI...
ARE YOU OK?
DID YOU COME HERE BECAUSE YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME?
YEAH... KIND OF.
YES.
THAT, AND, UM...
I...
I WON'T LET WHOEVER DID THAT TO MY SISTER...
GET AWAY WITH IT,
YOU KNOW.
.....
I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU, KANNO.
... PLEASE.
HUH...
YESTERDAY, YOU SAID YOU WERE ALSO "LOOKING INTO THINGS"...
BE-SIDES,
CAN I HELP AT ALL WITH THAT?
FOR SOME REASON, I...

I THINK IT'LL BE FASTER IF I DO IT.
IT'S THOSE MAILS THAT HAVE TO BE INVESTI-GATED.
I'M HAPPY TO HEAR THAT, BUT...
JUST, CAN'T LEAVE HIM ALONE.
SOMETHING MIGHT COME UP THAT I CAN HELP WITH.
I'D LIKE TO BE THERE WITH YOU WHEN YOU DO.
...THEN...
SURE!
...YOU'RE RIGHT.
...WELL THEN, I GUESS I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU.
PHEW
MS. TAKA-HASHI.
SURE, I'LL BE WAITING.
I'LL DROP BY YOUR PLACE AFTER SCHOOL TOMORROW.
UM... I NEED TO HEAD BACK TO WORK FIRST.
SO TODAY ISN'T...
GOT IT.

...SINCE THESE THINGS ARE ONLY HAPPENING AROUND HIM, RIGHT?
YOU SHOULDN'T ASSOCIATE WITH HIM SO MUCH.
DETECTIVE HONDA
I DON'T THINK...
THAT KANNO IS THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO'D DO STUFF LIKE THAT.
...I LOOKED INTO HIM.
HE...
YOU THINK NOT?
CLACK
DROVE HIS FORMER FIANCEE TO COMMIT SUICIDE.



"TO COMMIT SUICIDE ——"

STARTING TOMORROW, I'LL BE THERE...
AND SERVE AS KANNO'S ALIBI.
HAS THAT SAME PAIN THAT I DO.
AND...
SOMEONE IS TRYING TO FRAME KANNO.
WHAT HAPPENED TO MY SISTER WAS TERRIBLE.
I'M GOING TO CATCH WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE.
Gnop
Gnip
COME ON IN.
THANKS.

WOW!
ALL THESE BOOKS LOOK HARD.
HAH.
FEEL FREE TO READ THEM.
YEAH RIGHT ...
ARE... THESE ALL BOOKS ON PROGRAMMING?
click
click

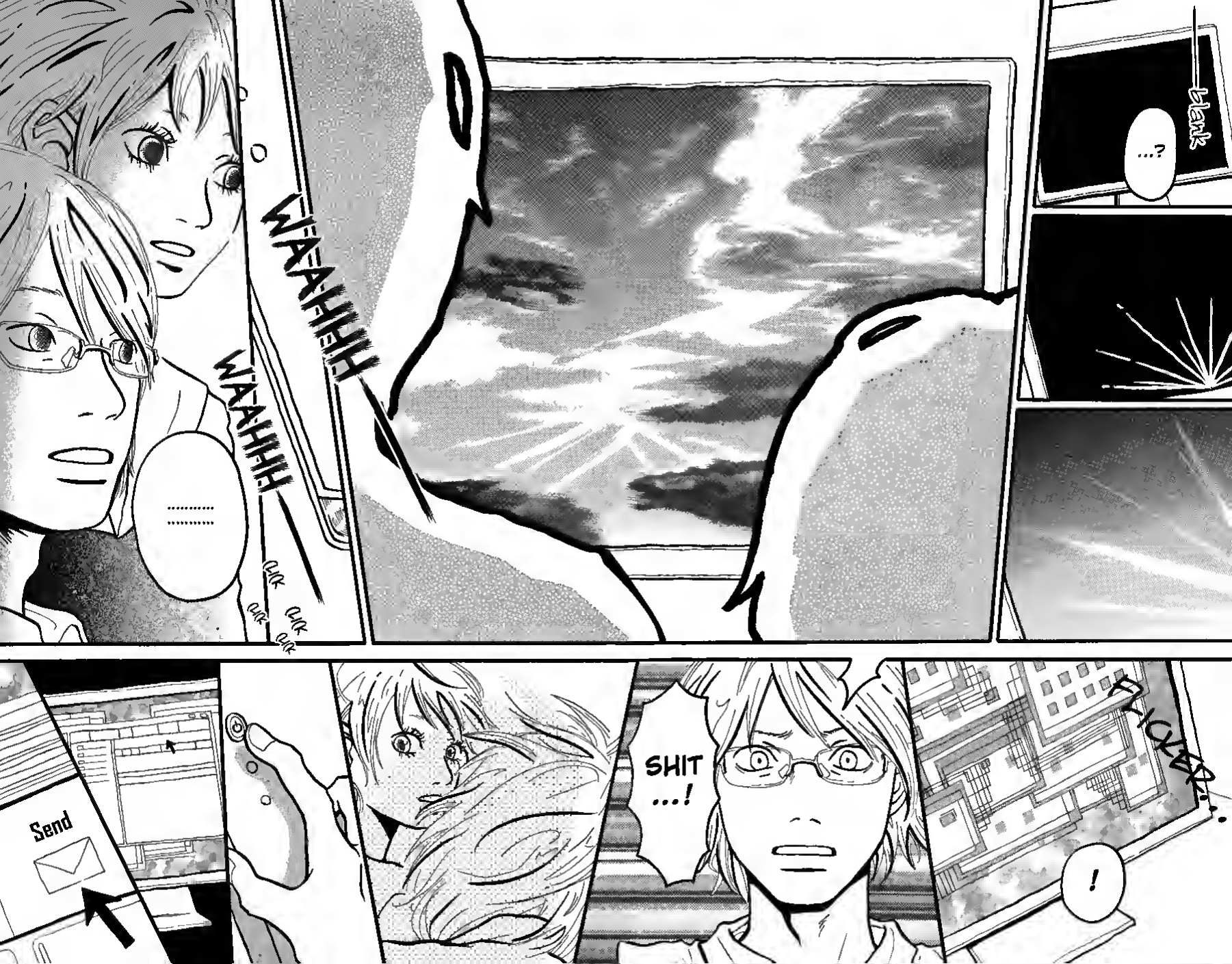
HEY, KANNO ...
WERE YOU A PROGRAMMER?
Programming Contest
Champion
Mr. Kanno
.....

STOP
—!
IT WAS... A LONG TIME AGO, YEAH.
I DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT THIS FROM MY SISTER, EITHER...
HE WAS A GOOD ENOUGH PROGRAMMER TO TAKE TOP PLACE IN A CONTEST.
HE'S KIND OF MYSTERIOUS.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
NO, A MAIL FROM AN UNKNOWN SENDER...
HM?
GUESS I REALLY DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT KANNO—
THAT'S RIGHT, I... MYSTERIOUS...
.....
!
THE CULPRIT ...!
IT MIGHT BE...
JUST ARRIVED
IT'S A RISK, BUT...
—I'M OPENING IT.
CLICK

IT'S...
...WHAT IS THIS?
SOME KIND OF PROGRAM?
CAN'T BE.
.....
click
click
click
click
click
click
I'M SURE OF IT.
—THIS IS...

HUH!?
IT'S AN A.I. PROGRAM ...
THAT I WROTE FIVE YEARS AGO.
.....
—UM, WHAT'S THAT?
THAT'S ...
KINDA SCARY.
BASICALLY, IT'S CLOSE TO AN ARTIFICIAL MIND.
I PROGRAMMED THE SOFTWARE...
TO THINK LIKE A HUMAN.
YEAH, THAT'S WHY THERE'S A CONTROL MECHANISM
—THAT FEATURE WAS IMPERATIVE TO ALLOW IT TO STOP ITSELF.
IT KEEPS IT FROM RUNNING OUT OF CONTROL.
click
click
...I'LL OPEN IT.
AN ATTACHMENT.
WHY IS THIS HERE...
BUT I WASN'T ABLE TO FINISH THE TASK... THE PROGRAM IS INCOMPLETE.
KANNO, THERE'S...


WAAHHH
WAAHHH
.....
.....
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
blank
...?
Send
SHIT ...!
FUCK!!
!

WH...
WHAT HAP-PENED?
...!
BLANK
THE A.I. PROGRAM ...
ACTIVATED.

HUH ...?
I DON'T GET IT.
...BUT AT THE END...
AN EMAIL GOT SENT.
!
click
WHAT WAS SENT!?
YOU'RE RIGHT, WHAT WAS IT!?
WHY WOULD THE CULPRIT DO ALL THIS...
...THIS...
HAS GOTTEN...
click
click
To:
Cyberphone
Subject:
STRANGE.

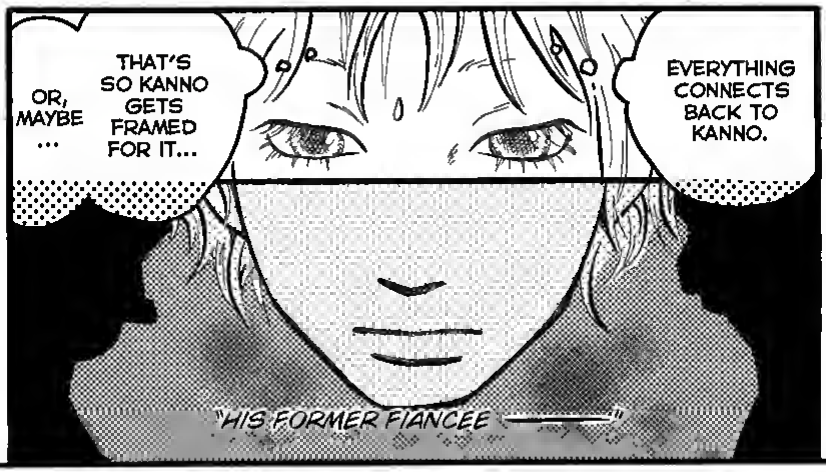
CLICK
HELLO.
YOU'VE REACHED CYBER-PHONE.
IT'S KANNO.
WHAT'S IN THE EMAIL?
HM?
CLICK
YES?
HELLO, IS THIS DETECTIVE HONDA?
rrrrrr
rrrrrr
Sent Mail
To: Cyberphone
Subject: DOWN
<File Attached>
Eyes
— REALLY STRANGE.
...AND THE FILE?
.....
THE MAIL SENT FROM ME!
THE CULPRIT CONTACTED US...
OPENING IT. IT SOUNDS LIKE A BABY CRYING...
WHAT IS THIS? IT SAYS "EYES"
OH, I'LL OPEN IT NOW.
!
RIGHT NOW?

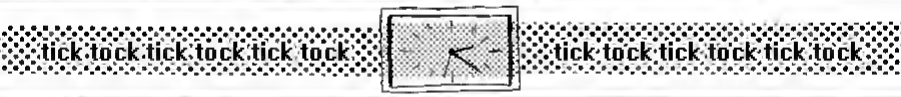
SCREECH
I CAN'T PROCESS ALL THIS.
Cyberphone Corporation
CLA
CK
OVER THERE!
GAHHH!
!
NAKA-MURA!
UH...

COVER
!
WHAT'S WRONG!?
MY EYES ...
HUH?
DON'T... LOOK.
S...
SURE!
CALL AN AMBULANCE!
DAMN IT!
CLACK

KANNO!
click
click
click
click
IN THE MAIL CENTER!
IT HAS TO BE ON ONE OF THE COMPUTERS...
THOUGH WHY IT'S HERE...
MAYUMI TOLD ME THE SITUATION.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE CULPRIT INTENDS TO DO HERE?
I DON'T. RIGHT NOW, I HAVE TO FIND THAT PROGRAM QUICKLY...
AND SHUT IT DOWN.
.....
click
click
click

WHERE IS IT?
... DAMN IT.
THE CULPRIT MUST WANT SOME-THING.
GOT IT. I'LL LEAVE THIS TO YOU,
SINCE YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO IT.
THIS IS... SO STRANGE. WHY THE A.I. PRO-GRAM?


OR, MAYBE ...
THAT'S SO KANNO GETS FRAMED FOR IT...
EVERYTHING CONNECTS BACK TO KANNO.
"HIS FORMER FIANCEE ——"

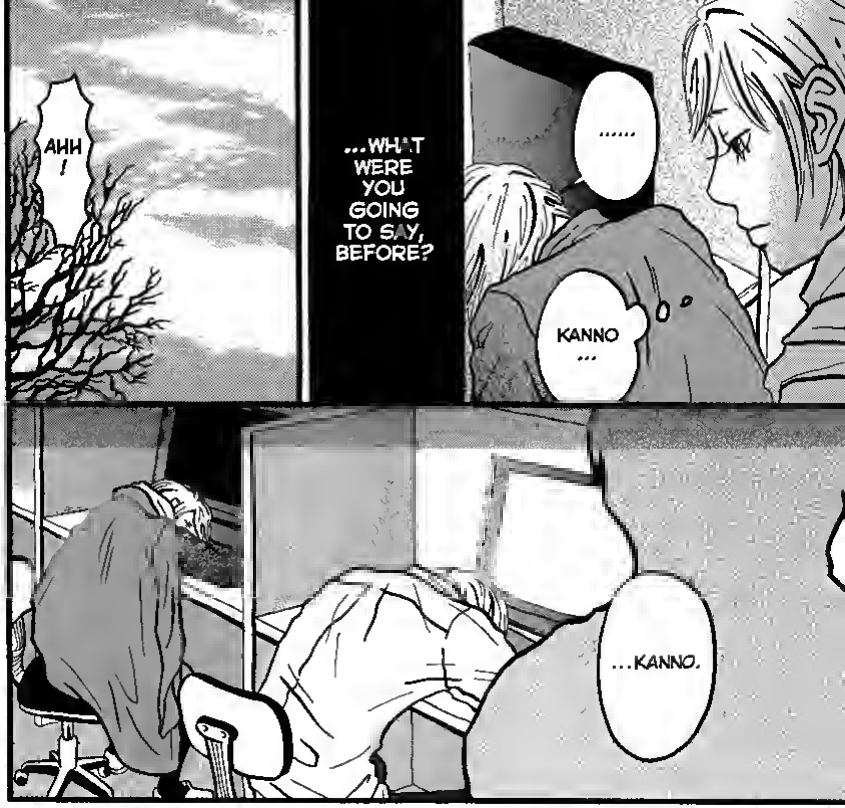

tick tock tick tock tick tock
tick tock tick tock tick tock

...MAYUMI.
YES?

WHERE IS DETECTIVE HONDA?
HE WENT TO THE HOSPITAL.
OH...
click
click
click
HOW ARE YOU DOING, KANNO?
.....
click
click
SOMEONE'S BEEN TRYING TO PENETRATE THE MAIN COMPUTER.
IT'S PROBABLY THE A.I.
CELL PHONE ADDRESSES THROUGHOUT JAPAN.
—AND IT'S TARGET IS PROBABLY... WHAT'S STORED ON THE MAIN COMPUTER.
!
THEN THE CULPRIT WILL SEND "DOWN" THROUGHOUT JAPAN...?

I...
THE TRUTH IS ——
THERE HAS TO BE SOMEONE BEHIND IT, RIGHT...?
WHY?
WHY WOULD THE CULPRIT DO THAT?
click
click
HUH?
click
click
IS THE PROGRAM OUT OF CONTROL ...?
NO... MAYBE...
MAYUMI.
.....
JESUS ...
LIKE JESUS CHRIST ...?
click
!
JESUS
HM!?
WHAT'S THIS FILE?

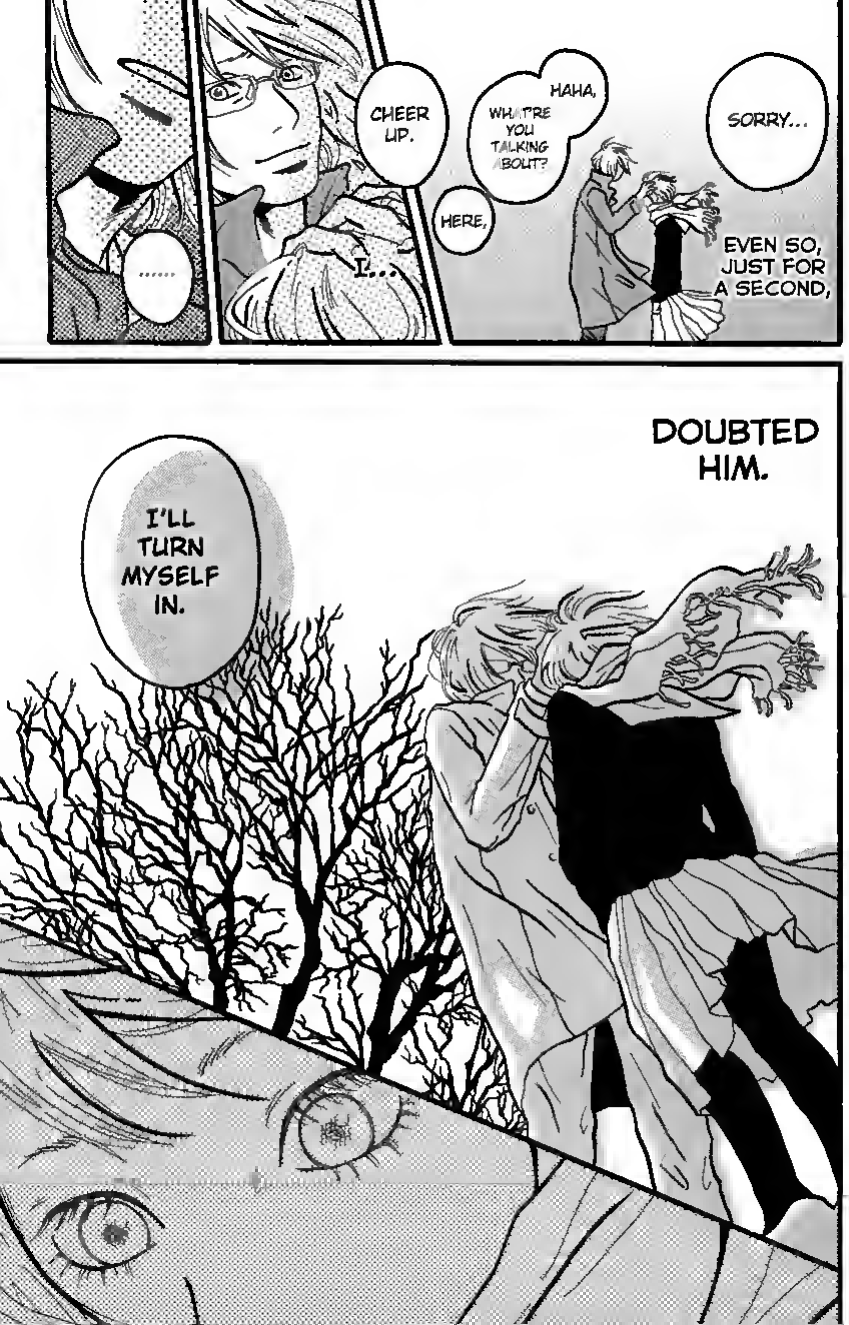
WAHHH—
WAHHH—
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
... UH!
... DAMN IT!
THE A.I.!
...IT GOT AWAY.
UUAAA


AHH!
...WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO SAY, BEFORE?
.....
KANNO...
...KANNO.

...NOT LONG AGO, A BUSINESS-WOMAN...
RECEIVED A STRANGE EMAIL.
—CHIEF.
OH NO! I DOZED OFF...
!
KANNO!

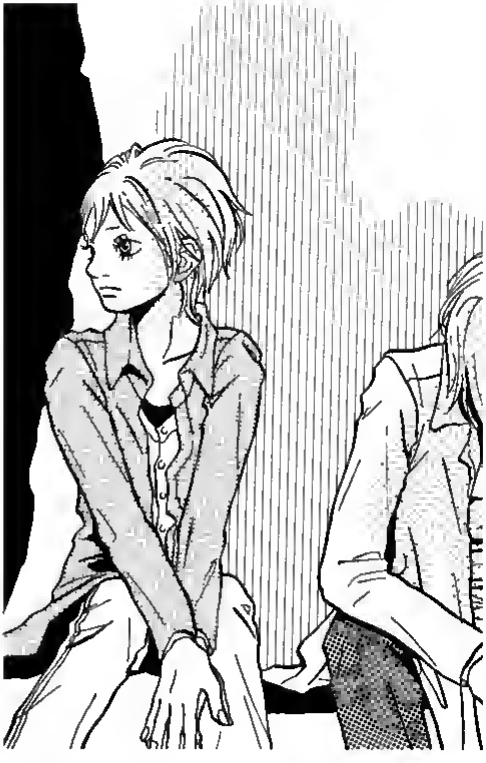
HER LIPS DISAPPEARED.
RIGHT AFTER THAT,
YOU...
SEEM TO BE INVOLVED IN SOMETHING BIG.
SO YOU CAN CONCENTRATE ON THIS.
YOU SHOULD TAKE SOME TIME OFF WORK...
WHAT!?
...
CLUTCH
YOU UNDERSTAND...
WHAT I'M SAYING, DON'T YOU?

.....
KANNO
...
.....
IF I HADN'T FALLEN ASLEEP...
BUT THIS IS ALL JUST PUSHING KANNO IN A BAD DIRECTION.
KANNO DID EVERYTHING HE COULD.
I COULD HAVE VOUCHED ...
THAT YOU WEREN'T BEHIND IT...
HUH ...?
KANNO CAN'T BE THE CULPRIT.
...I'M SORRY.


.....
I...
CHEER UP.
HERE,
HAHA,
WH/TRE YOU TALKING /BOUT?
SORRY...
EVEN SO, JUST FOR A SECOND,
DOUBTED HIM.
I'LL TURN MYSELF IN.

—WHAT?
I'LL TURN MYSELF ...
IN.
MAYBE I HAVE MULTIPLE PERSONALITIES.
...WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THERE'S PROOF.
ARE YOU... BRAVE ENOUGH TO SEE?
.....
—BRAVE ...
.....

IT'S HERE.
I'M NOT.
—!



Motto, Ikitai

Scanned and translated by Kalendel
Cleaned by Melona
Redrawn by Voo
Typeset by YukinoJen

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I DIDN'T WANT THIS TO HAPPEN AGAIN.

IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN AGAIN, WAS IT?
Chapter 27
Motto, Kitai...

BZZZ
BZZZ
I...
DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON EITHER.
UH—
...I'M SORRY.
tap
IF I TURN MYSELF IN...
BZZZ
THEN I'M SURE WE'LL FIGURE THIS OUT——
crackle

—— THIS IS...
flick
JUST...
ROLL
zzzst
zzzst
WAIT.
flicker
—HUH?
bzzst
bzzst
bzzst
bzzst

WHAT?
WAA AH!
WAA AH!
WAA AH!

WAAH!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
WAAH!
WAAH!
...WHAT IS THIS?
I DON'T GET IT.
thump
grasp
WAAAAH!
THIS... MUST BE A TRICK.
SOME-WHERE, SOMEONE ...
IS MAKING IT MOVE ..

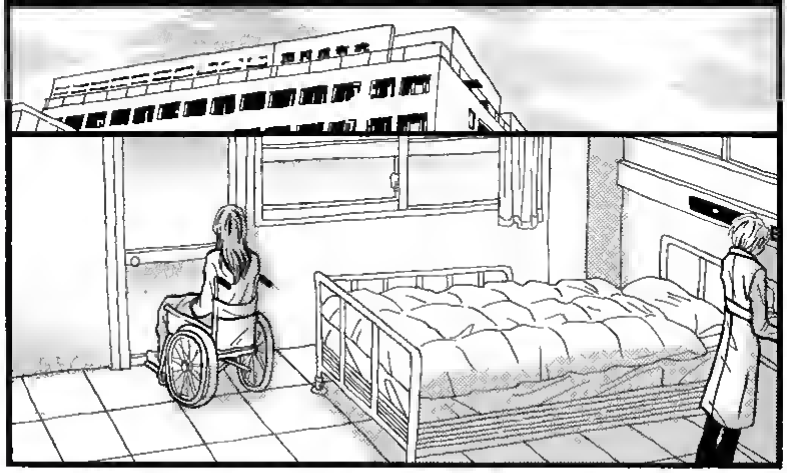
ARE YOU?
WHO...
A TRICK...
CH
JESUS
R
ST
I
S
JE
SU
THE A.I.?
NO!
ING
TH
OM
FR
YOU
RE
MO
ONE
NE
I
ED
—IT'S A COLD ELEC-TRONIC VOICE.

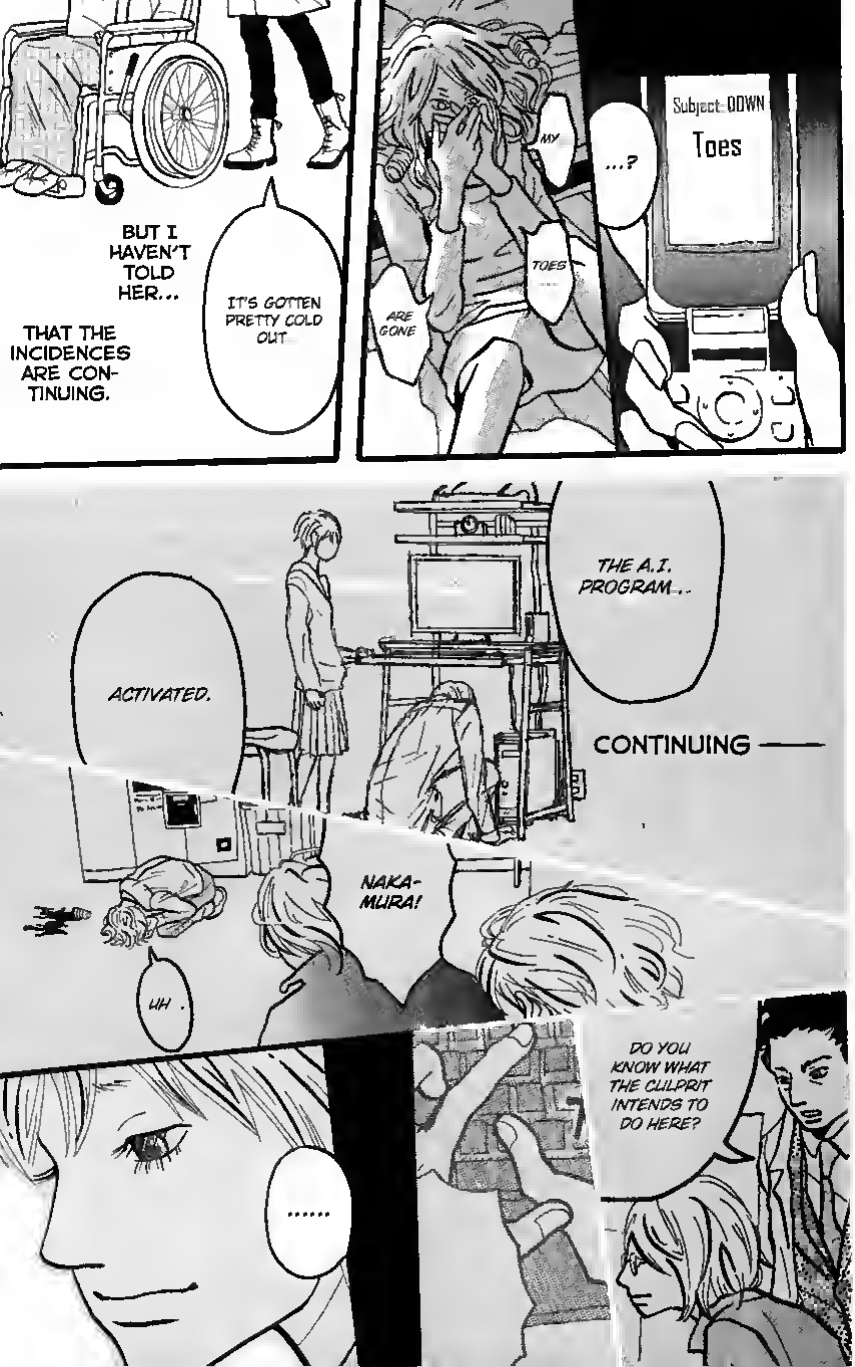
FT
WA
RE
SO
LY
SIS
AN
A
MA
KE
..WHAT IS IT?
ANALYSIS SOFTWARE?
...YOU COULDN'T
YOU HAVE
UN
TIL
DE
BER
TWE
CEM
NTY
FIFTH
!
QUIT SCREWING WITH ME!
IF
YOU
DO
NOT
MAKE
IT

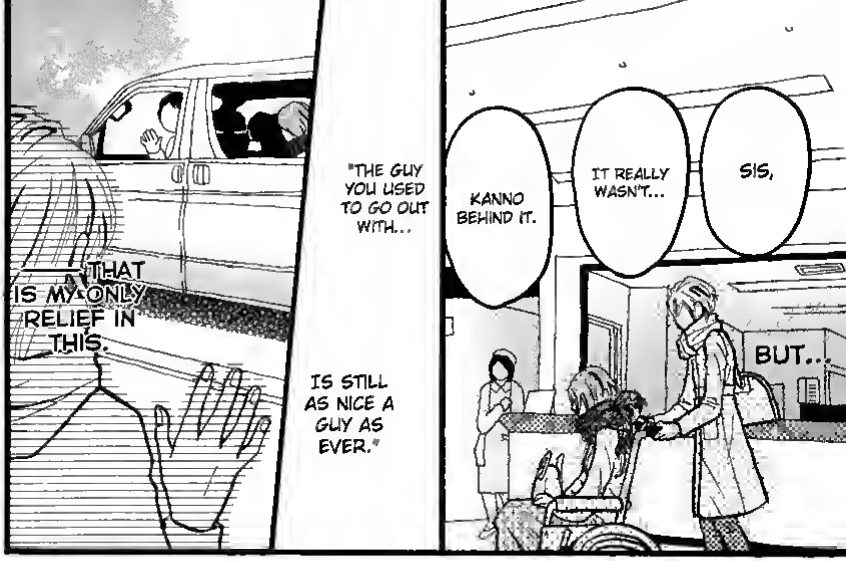
— THOSE AROUND YOU WILL DIE
...!
!
KANNO.
THEY'RE ALL GONE...!?
Flare

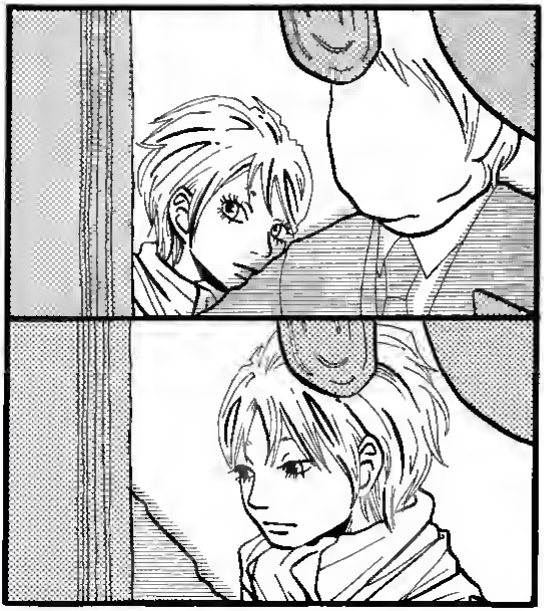
...WHAT EXACTLY...
IS ANALYSIS SOFTWARE?
.....
A PROGRAM ...
MOST LIKELY...
IT'S STILL GROWING
—— THAT MUST STILL BE TOO HARD FOR IT.
AND IF IT DOES THAT, IT CAN SEND "DOWN" MAILS THROUGHOUT JAPAN.
...
IF IT'S AN A.I., CAN'T IT MAKE THAT ITSELF?
BUT THEN..
AND GAIN ENTRY TO THE MAIN COMPUTER ...
THAT IT WILL USE TO BREAK THE PASSWORD ...
AT THE MAIL CENTER.

—— CHRIST'S BIRTHDAY.




BUT I HAVEN'T TOLD HER...
THAT THE INCIDENCES ARE CONTINUING.
IT'S GOTTEN PRETTY COLD OUT
MY
TOES
ARE GONE
...?
Subject: DOWN
Toes
THE A.I. PROGRAM...
ACTIVATED.
CONTINUING
NAKAMURA!
UH.
.....
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE CULPRIT INTENDS TO DO HERE?


SIS,
IT REALLY WASN'T...
KANNO BEHIND IT.
BUT...
"THE GUY YOU USED TO GO OUT WITH...
IS STILL AS NICE A GUY AS EVER."
THAT IS MY ONLY RELIEF IN THIS.

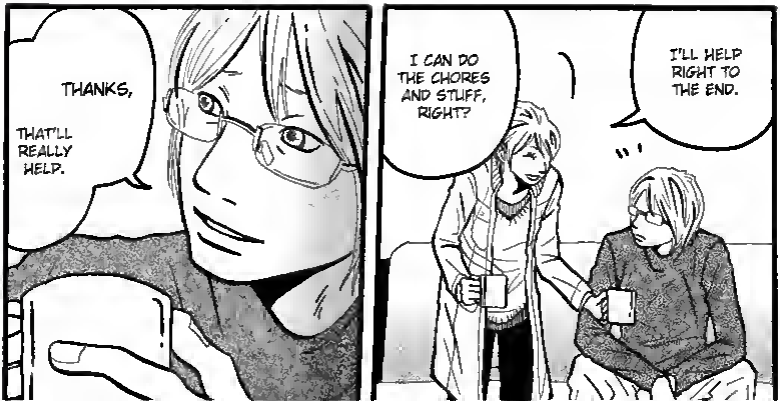


"THOSE AROUND YOU WILL DIE."

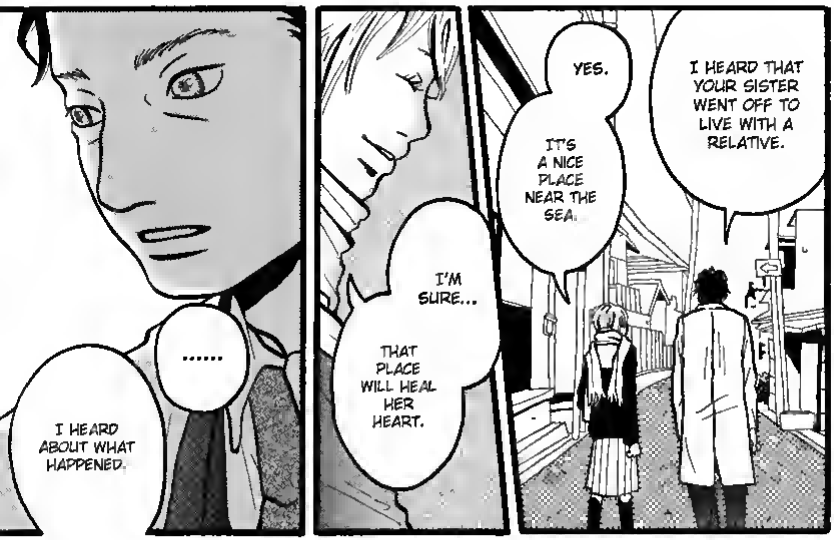
IT'S BEEN THREE WEEKS SINCE THEN.

KANNO STILL HASN'T DONE ANYTHING.
THIS WHOLE THING SUCKS.
TO DO WHAT JESUS SAYS...
OR NOT TO...
I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
...
IF IT WERE ME?
WHAT...
FIVE DAYS TO CHRIST-MAS.
THERE ARE...
COLD ...

I'VE...
DECIDED TO.
I'LL MAKE THE ANALYSIS SOFTWARE.
HUH?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SMILE.
GOT IT...
KANNO SURE IS STRONG.


THANKS, THAT'LL REALLY HELP.
I CAN DO THE CHORES AND STUFF, RIGHT?
I'LL HELP RIGHT TO THE END.

MS. TAKAHASHI.
...
DETECTIVE HONDA.
AND I AM WEAK.


I HEARD ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED.
.....
I'M SURE...
THAT PLACE WILL HEAL HER HEART.
YES.
IT'S A NICE PLACE NEAR THE SEA.
I HEARD THAT YOUR SISTER WENT OFF TO LIVE WITH A RELATIVE.

...
YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT?
NO, RIGHT NOW...
I TRUST MR. KANNO.
!
...YOU KNOW...
I'M SURE...
WE'LL FIGURE OUT THE TRICK TO IT AT SOME POINT!
YEAH...
THAT'S A RELIEF.
...BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT...
A GUY WHO SEEMS AS LOGICAL AS HIM TO BELIEVE A STORY LIKE
...I'D JUST...
LIKE YOU TO BE CAREFUL.
THIS CASE . THIS CHAIN OF EVENTS...
I'VE GOT A PRETTY BAD FEELING ABOUT IT.
...AND THERE'S SOMETHING THAT OCCURRED TO ME.

ACTUALLY DO EXIST...
THEY...
THE SO CALLED X-FILES
UNRESOLVED CASES
IN THIS WORLD.
WHAT DID HE MEAN?

click
...
click
KANNO,
FOOD'S DONE.
THAT CAME OUT OF THE BLUE. I DON'T GET IT.
IS THAT IT?
THAT THIS CASE IS ALSO...
LIKE THAT.
...SORRY, MAYUMI.
IT'S OK.
ONCE I START PROGRAMMING,
IT'S LIKE I GO INTO A TRANCE...
click
.....
KANNO.
click
click
KANNO?
click
click
click
!!
KANNO!!

WHY...
DID YOU STOP PROGRAMMING?
YOU LIKE DOING IT, RIGHT?
SORRY.
ANYWAY,
THIS FOOD...
IS GREAT...
.....
...HM?
DID I STEP ON A LANDMINE?
I GOT A PHONE CALL.
IT WAS WINTER, FIVE YEARS AGO.
I WAS WORKING ON THE CONTROL MECHANISM FOR THE A.I. PROGRAM.
click

IT WAS TO NOTIFY ME ..
THAT MY
—AH.
SHE'D SAID ..
THAT I WAS TOO OBSESSED WITH THE PROGRAM
THIS...
THAT IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO ME ..
THAN MYSELF.
IS WHAT HE MENTIONED —
.....

HE...
DROVE HIS FORMER FIANCEE TO COMMIT SUICIDE.
...MAYBE I WAS...
MY FIANCEE, HITOMI...
A LITTLE AFRAID...
WE MET AT HER FATHER'S COMPANY.
OF ASKING HIM...
THIS IS KANNO, THE PROGRAM-MER.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
AND THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, HITOMI.
NICE... TO MEET YOU.

I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER...
AT FIRST SIGHT.
BUT ——
SHE HAD A SCAR ON HER HEART.
HER FATHER WAS A PROFESSOR AT A FAMOUS UNIVERSITY,
SO HE WAS VERY BUSY. SO BUSY...
AND HAD BEEN BULLIED SINCE SHE WAS LITTLE...
THAT HIS DAUGHTER DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.

I ALWAYS THOUGHT...
THE WORLD,
PEOPLE,
THAT IT WAS ALL COVERED IN DARKNESS.
AND HE NEVER KNEW.
I'M...
GLAD WE MET.
I FIGURED...
IT'D BE EASIER..
TO JUST SHUT MY EYES.
I'M GLAD...
YOU'RE HERE.
I WANTED TO PROTECT HER AND BE WITH HER FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES.

AN A.I.
THE JOB WAS TO CREATE...
MY DREAM JOB CAME TO ME.
...BUT ONE DAY...
I HADN'T MET WITH HITOMI FOR OVER SIX MONTHS,
WHEN I EVEN WENT AND CANCELLED OUR CHRISTMAS PLANS,
AND OBSESSED WITH MY WORK AS I WAS,
I DIDN'T REPLY TO MANY OF HER CALLS AND EMAILS.
SHE FINALLY LOST HER TEMPER...
I GOT IT IN MY HEAD TO FINISH IT BEFORE THE WEDDING,
AND GRADUALLY..
BECAME COMPLETELY ABSORBED IN MY WORK.
—DURING OUR FIGHT, I WASN'T THINKING, AND I SAID...
"MY PROGRAMMING MEANS MORE TO ME."

ON CHRISTMAS,
SHE JUMPED FROM THE COMPANY'S ROOF ——
AND YET, IN THE END, WITHOUT SEEING HER AGAIN...
...SHE HAD TOLD ME THAT SHE HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL ME, AND HAD TO MEET WITH ME NO MATTER WHAT.
YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING...
ANYMORE.
AND I DON'T WANT TO BE LIKE THIS ..
JUST FILLED WITH DARK FEELINGS.
...
ON THAT DAY,
I QUIT MY PROGRAM-MING JOB
...
I REALIZED THAT WHEN YOU LOSE WHAT YOU CARE ABOUT MOST,

I UNDER-STAND.
BORING YOU WITH THIS...
HERE I AM...
WHAT'M I SAYING...
...SORRY.
I UNDER-STAND.

I CAN'T JUST EASILY ACCEPT THAT.
FEELINGS, THEY...
SHOULD JUST GO AWAY.
THE SKY...
IS SO HIGH —
BUT...
SORROW, HATRED, AND RAGE SO GREAT YOU CAN'T EVEN CONTAIN THEM...
ARE COMMON IN THIS WORLD.

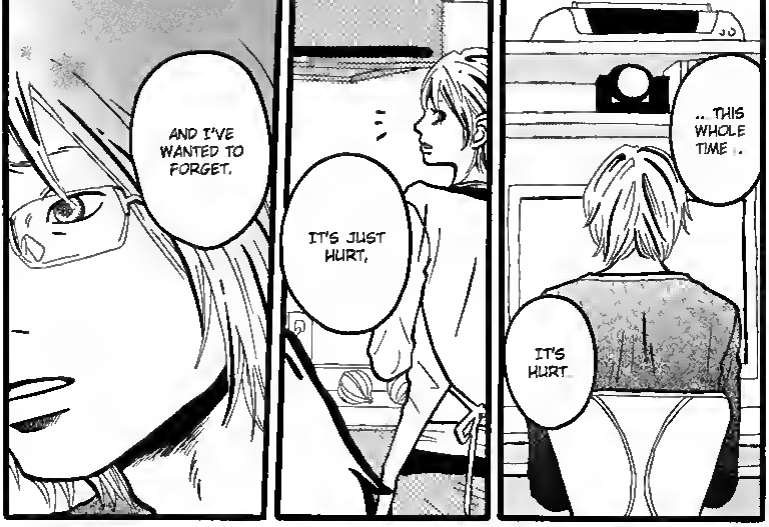
EVEN SO, EVEN IF KANNO PLANNED ON CASTING THEM ASIDE...
FEELINGS ...
ARE PRETTY STUBBORN.
I'M GLAD THEY ARE.
I'M GLAD THAT ONLY SOMEONE WHO ISN'T HUMAN...
COULD HEAR A STORY LIKE THAT WITHOUT BEING PAINED BY IT.

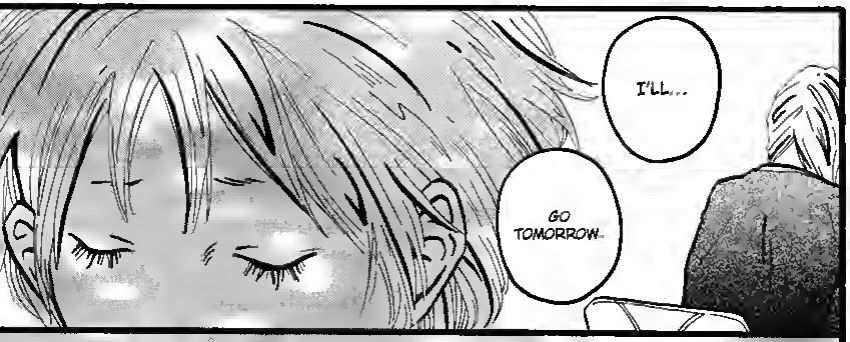
SO KANNO,
DON'T SAY...
THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO FEEL,
THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO GO ON.
YOU'RE AN AMAZING GUY.
ring
ring
ONE MORE DAY TO CHRISTMAS.

I'M COMING IN..
ring
ring
OH, HE'S SLEEPING.
IT'S THE PHONE!
ring
click
ring
YES?
IS KANNO THERE?
YES. EXCUSE ME, BUT WHO IS THIS?
!
THIS IS WATANABE HITOMI'S MOTHER.
TOMORROW IS FIVE YEARS AFTER SHE PASSED
WILL YOU BE COMING TO THE HOUSE?
MM...
KANNO!
WAKE UP!

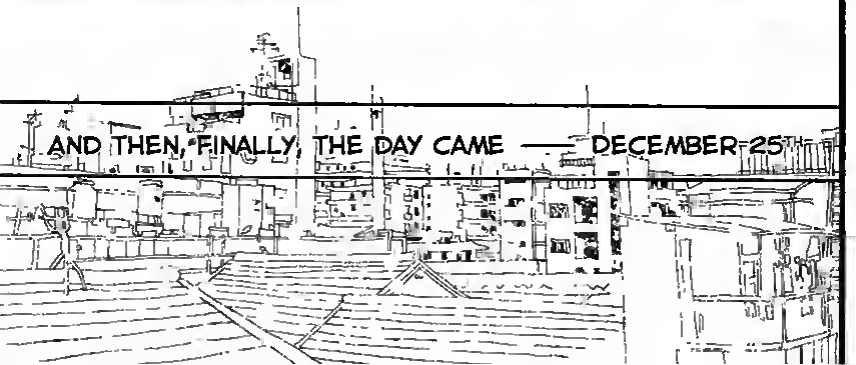
—...
IS THE WOMAN WHO ANSWERED YOUR NEW GIRLFRIEND?

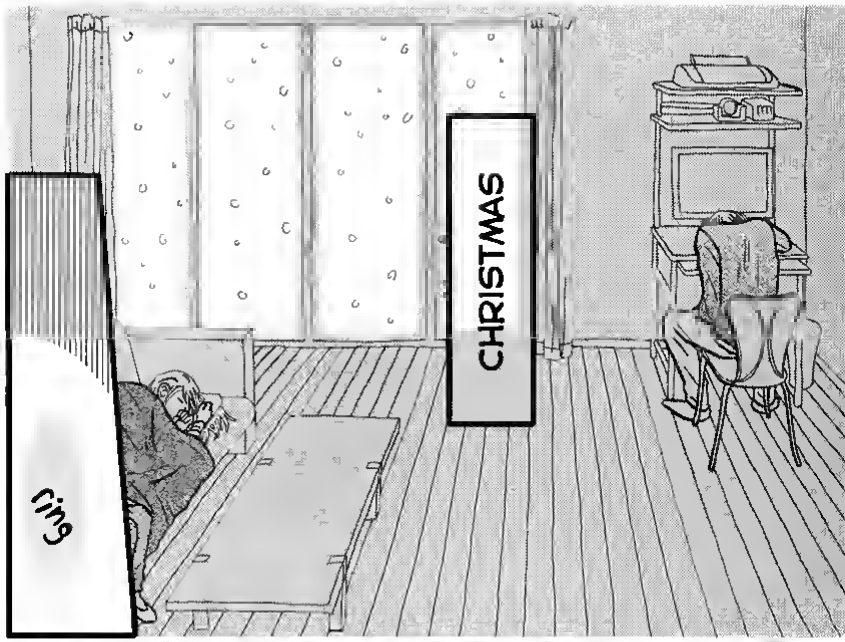
IT WILL START AT 11 THIS YEAR.
PLEASE DO COME
...
THAT'S FINE. YOU ARE STILL ALIVE
HUH ...?
AH!
YES, MA'AM.
click
I'M SURE...
THAT HITOMI WOULD WANT TO SEE YOU.
IF IT WERE ME,
I WOULD.
click
click
click


AND I'VE WANTED TO FORGET.
IT'S JUST HURT.
.. THIS WHOLE TIME ..
IT'S HURT.


I'LL...
GO TOMORROW.

GOOD LUCK.


AND THEN, FINALLY, THE DAY CAME —— DECEMBER 25th


CHRISTMAS
ring

ring
MM...
ring
!
...CRAP!
ring
clack
YES!

YOU MURDERER!
CLACK
.....!
PROFES-SOR...!?
YOU.
DIDN'T COME AGAIN THIS YEAR.
.....
THAT YOU PAY FOR WHAT HAPPENED.
I WILL MAKE CERTAIN
...IT WAS HITOMI'S FATHER.
KANNO, WHO WAS THAT?
...CAN'T BE...
NO...

BUT... HE SOUNDED SO ANGRY...
PAY FOR IT...
2PM ...!?
SO KANNO OVER-SLEPT!?
... REVENGE.
THE VICTIMS WERE ALL MY FRIENDS
!
...THAT'S RIGHT HE'S ——
AT MECHANICAL ENGINEERING!
AN EXPERT...
WHAT?
bzzz bzzz

beep
UM, THERE'S SOMEONE I'D LIKE YOU TO LOOK INTO, JUST TO BE SURE.
IT'S KANNO.
YES? HONDA SPEAKING.
SURE. WHO IS IT?
KANNO, YOU JUST GOT...
AN EMAIL?
—THANKS FOR YOUR HELP.
Inbox
From: Hitomi
KANNO!

From: Hitomi

Subject:

You didn't come today either.

You're always like this.

...damn you.

Motto, Ikitai

Scanned and translated by Kalendel
Cleaned by Lilied
Edited by Voo

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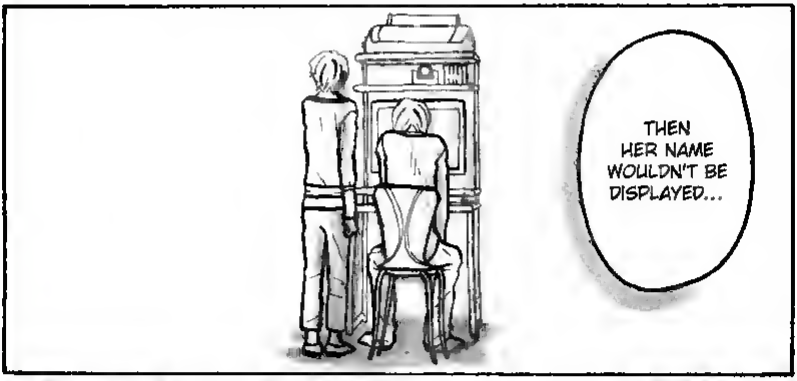
「Motto, Ikitai...」

[Chapter 31]

Inbox

From: Hitomi



You didn't come today either.

You're always like this.

...damn you.

DETEC-
TIVE!
THE PROFESSOR'S LAB IS THIS WAY.
THANKS
creak

... THIS IS...
REALLY SOME-THING...
WITH THIS, YOU COULD KEEP THE BLEEDING DOWN,
AS WELL AS AMPUTATE PARTS...
Click
A RAZOR ...
OF THE BODY.

.....
MR. KANNO'S FIANCEE, WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE,
WATANABE HITOMI'S...
FATHER—
tick tock tick tock

click
click
click
HE HASN'T SAID A WORD SINCE THEN...
BUT HE'S PROGRAMMING, SO THAT MAKES SENSE.
TODAY'S THE DEADLINE, CHRISTMAS...
HE'S OUT OF TIME.
BUT THAT EMAIL EVEN PUT ME AT A LOSS FOR WORDS.
IT WAS FROM A DEAD WOMAN ...?
.....
I'LL GO TO THE GROCERY STORE.

WHAT!?
...THERE'S AN EMAIL...
FROM JESUS.
Good work.
Install the program.
WHAT ABOUT THE PROGRAM ...?
I... JUST NOW COMPLETED IT.

TO ALL OF JAPAN
"DOWN" CAN SPREAD ...
WITH THIS,
I'LL INSTALL IT.
.....
IT'S LIKE... IT'S REALLY WATCHING US.

—OH.

MAYUMI...
WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE.
JUST KIDDING, SORRY.
I'M SORRY.
click
whirr
CLACK CLACK CLACK
B
I
R
TH
!?

did
you
...Wh
at
ke
?
ma
A
a
a
a
a
a
FIND
...
JESUS!
!
.....
blank

WHAT?
.....
WHAT DID YOU DO,
KANNO?
.....
IT GOT AWAY?
BUT... TIME WAS THE PRO-BLEM.
I MADE A PROGRAM TO DESTROY...
JESUS.
I HID IT IN...
THE ANALYSIS SOFTWARE.

!
THEN...
ring
I'VE FOUND SOME-THING.
.....
Inbox
To Kanno
You didn't come today either. You're always like this
-damn you
—IS THIS MR. KANNO?
IT'S HONDA.
I'M AT THE PROFESSOR'S LAB RIGHT NOW.

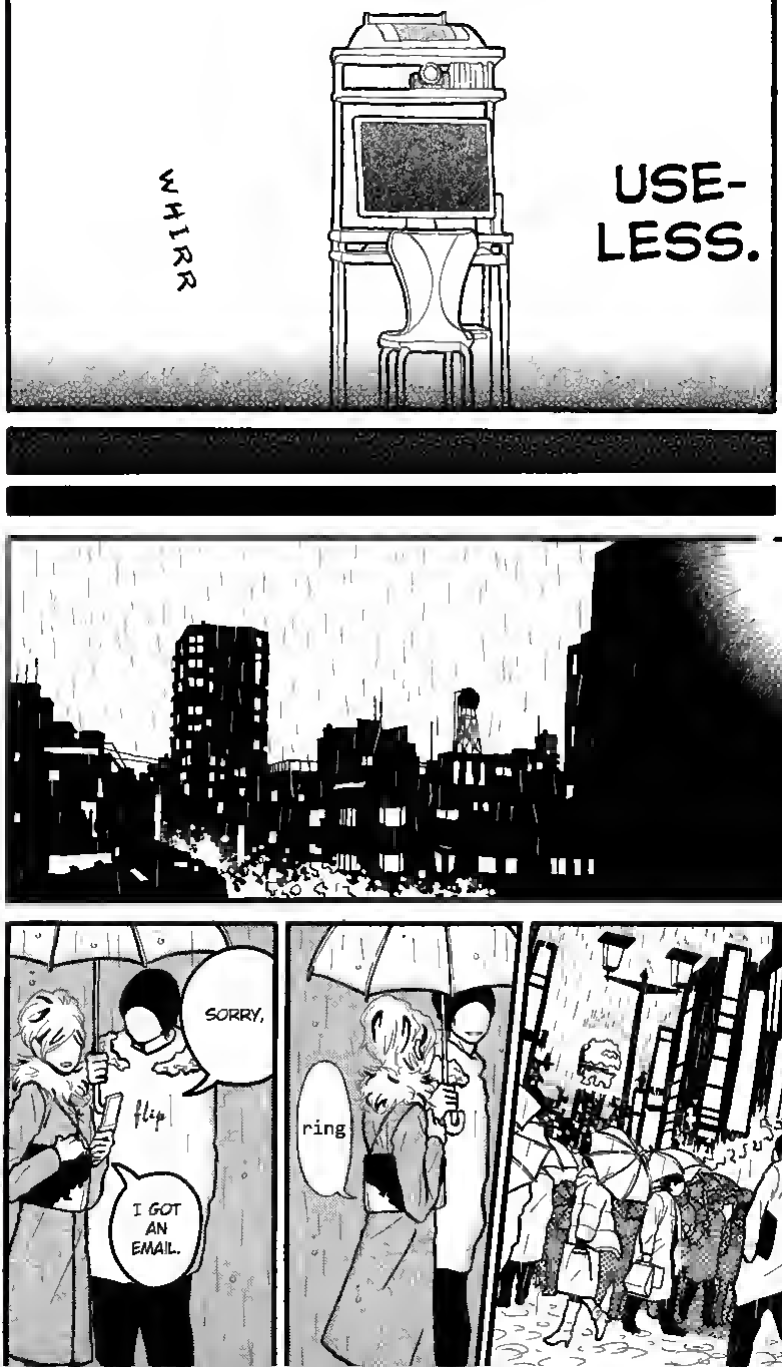
...!
SO HE USED HITOMI'S COMPUTER...
!
REALLY!
WHIRR
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU.
... THEN ...
—YES.
...I SEE.
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET RID OF IT TODAY.
IN THE END, THE CULPRIT WAS...!
—OH, AND...
ABOUT THE A.I. PROGRAM ...

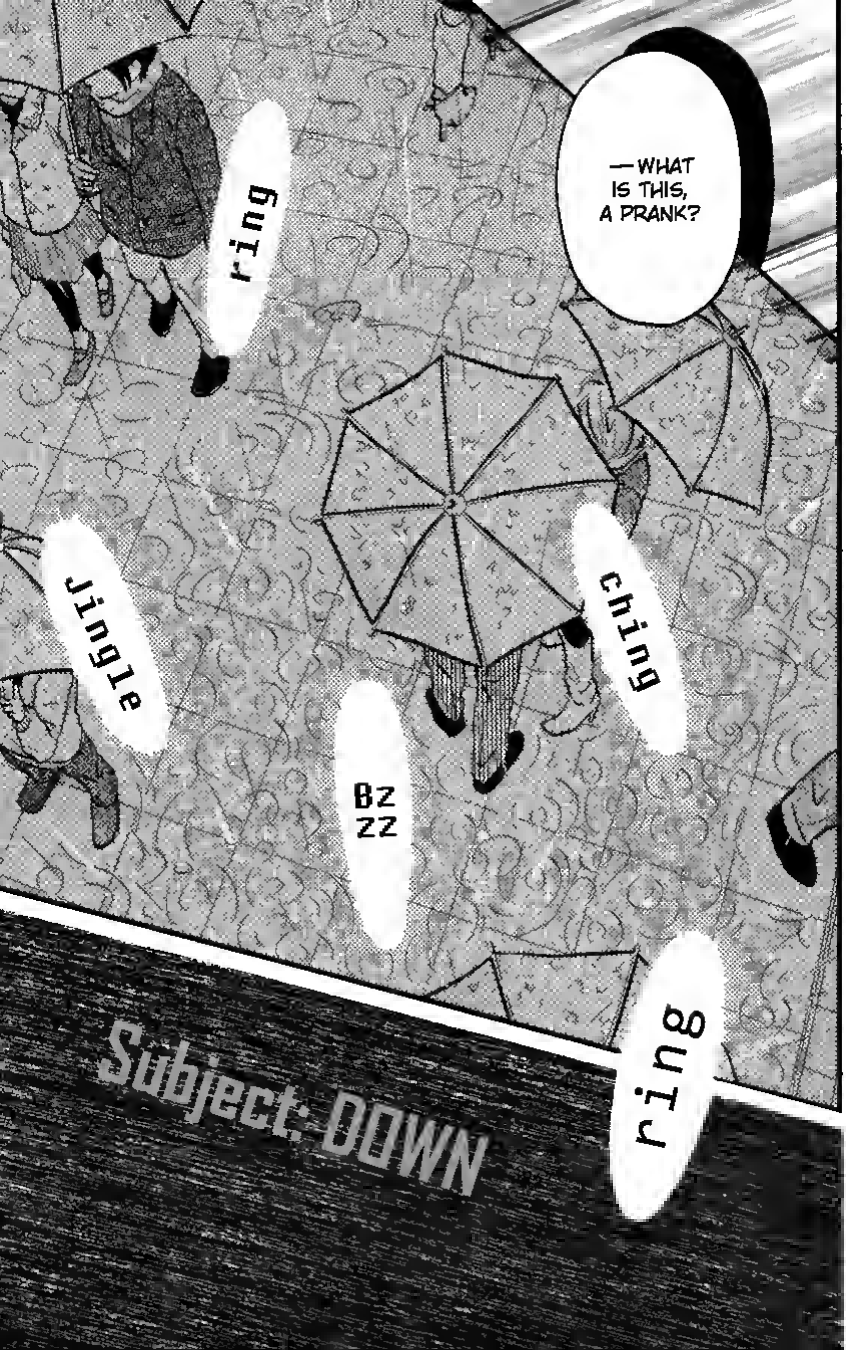
ARE HEADED TO THE PROFESSOR'S HOUSE NOW.
THE POLICE ...
click
HITOMI'S FATHER?
...YES.
TO GO THAT FAR FOR REVENGE...
IS ONLY NATURAL, RIGHT?
KANNO...
HE MUST HAVE BEEN PLANNING THIS ALL ALONG.
GETTING ...
RIKA AND MY COWORKERS INVOLVED IN THIS,
I...
—UH.

IT WAS ...
ALL MY FAULT.

KANNO ...
DON'T BLAME YOURSELF SO MUCH.
IT WOULD SEEM SO SHALLOW.
IF I SAID THAT,
Subject: DOWN
Nose
SO MUCH HAS HAP-PENED.

AND I'VE ALWAYS BEEN—
...I KNOW YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO RELAX...
UNTIL THE PROGRAM IS DONE TRACKING IT DOWN,
BUT YOU SHOULD REST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
.....
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HASN'T BEEN SLEEPING ENOUGH, MAYUMI.
I'LL USE THE SOFA,
SO YOU TAKE THE BED.
EH?
BUT ...
THE TRUTH IS, I'M ALWAYS—
IT'S FINE.
I'LL FEEL BETTER IF I STAY NEAR THE COMPUTER.
.....


WHIRR
USE-
LESS.
SORRY,
flip
I GOT AN EMAIL.
ring


—WHAT IS THIS, A PRANK?
ring
jingle
ching
Bz zz
ring
Subject: DOWN

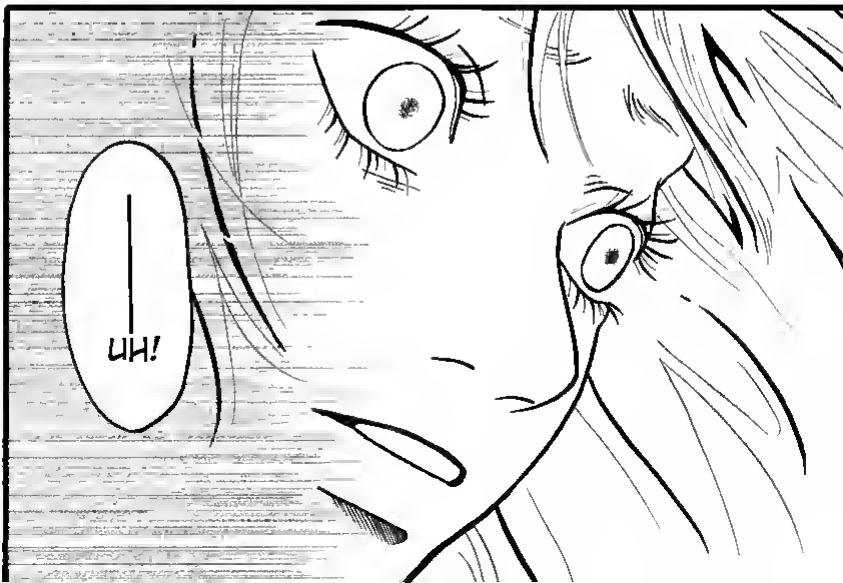
WEEOO
THERE'S BEEN A CRASH! A CAR HIT THEM!
THE BOY DIDN'T HAVE A LICENSE.
THE VICTIMS
ARE ONE MALE, ONE FEMALE.
WEEOO
WEEOO
— THEY DIED ON IMPACT.
... SIS...
LET ME GO...

...LET GO OF ME!
!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE HAD THAT DREAM.
...I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT.

HUH?
I DON'T BELIEVE IT...
...
IS THAT REALLY ALL THE PROFES-SOR DID?
THEN WHAT ABOUT "DOWN"...
IS BEHIND "DOWN"!?
JUST WHO...
TO REMEM-BER IT THIS CLEARLY...
BUT...
WHAT!?
HE ONLY SENT THAT ONE EMAIL!?

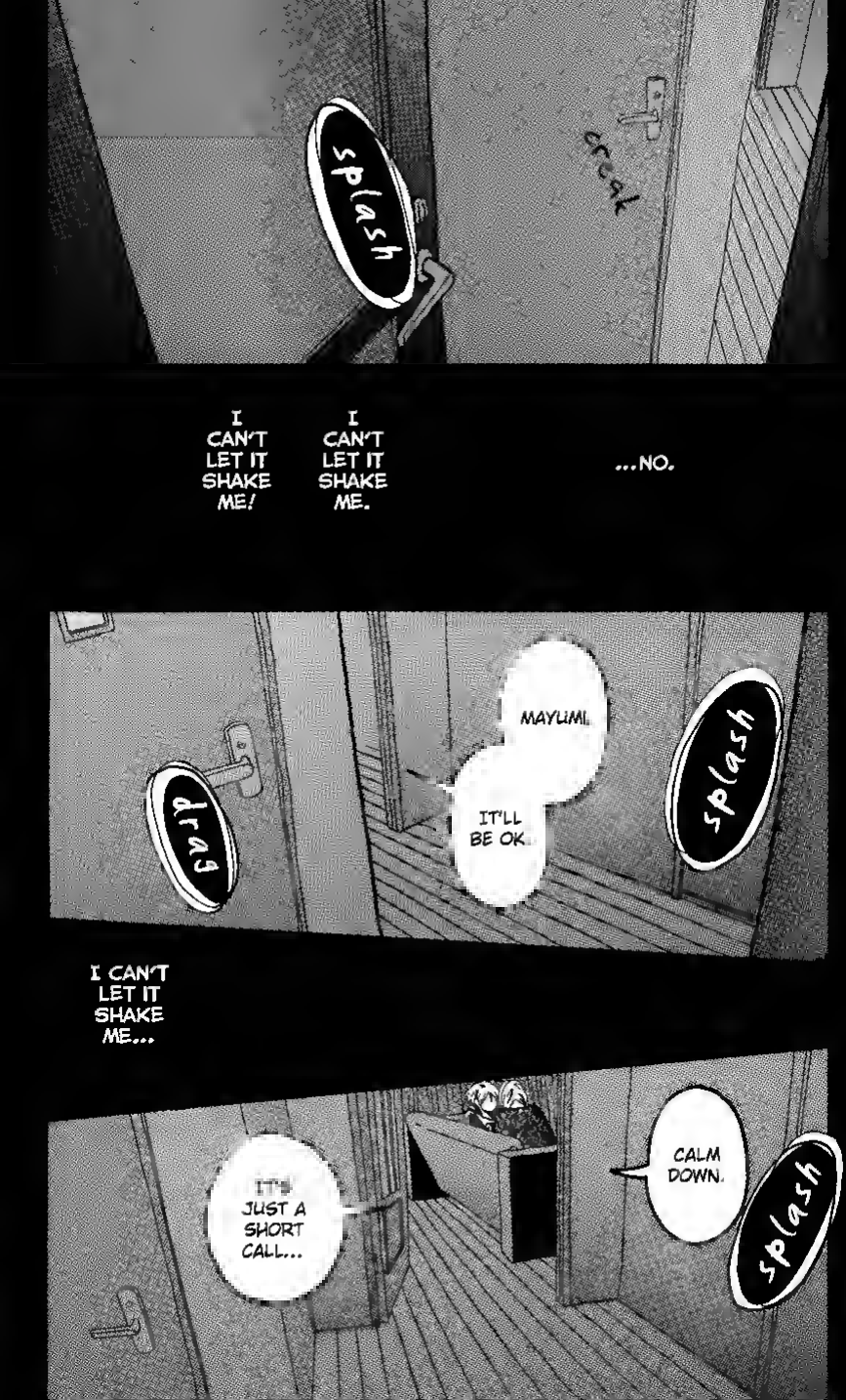
drip
SPLISH
YES.
YES ...
WATER?
WHAT WAS THAT?
.....
SPLASH
IT CAN'T BE...
CLICK...
FROM THE TUB...?


UH!

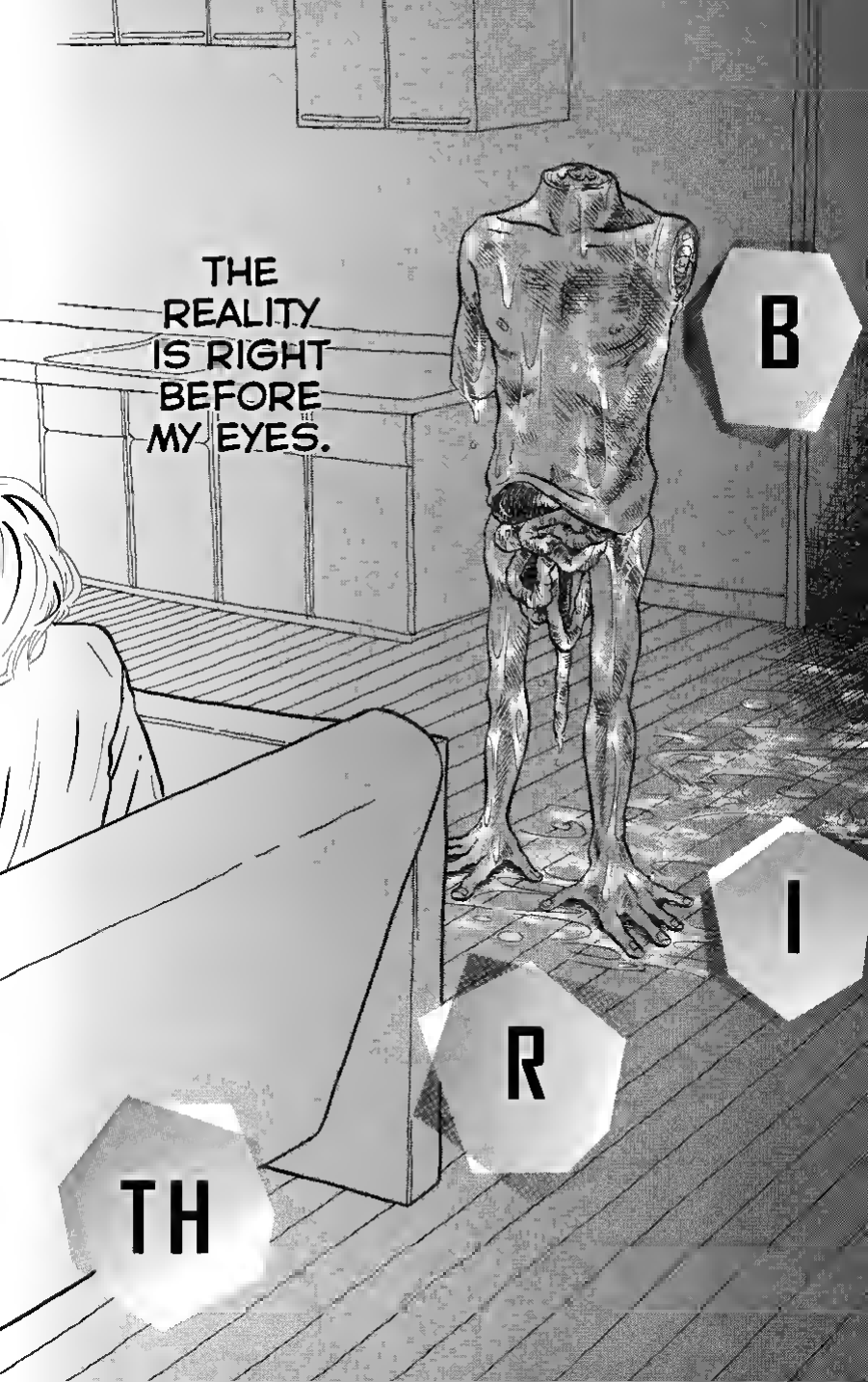
GAAAHH!
!
WHAT?
HOW?
WHAT'S WRONG ..?
!?
IS THIS REAL?
MAYUMI?
WH...
WHAT IS THIS!

HELLO ?
MR. KANNO !?
WHAT IS THIS ...
.....
JUST ...
clack
WHY !?
BZZST
BZZST
CRACKLE
BLANK
!

HUH ...
.....
NO.
THIS IS...
KINDA LIKE IT WAS BEFORE ...
WHO DID THIS?
HOW?
I KNOW,
I'LL CALL THE DETEC-TIVE!
WAIT, SIT DOWN!
DON'T LEAVE ME HERE.
WHY DO THIS!?


splash
creak
I CAN'T LET IT SHAKE ME!
I CAN'T LET IT SHAKE ME.
...NO.
MAYUMI.
IT'LL BE OK.
drip
splash
I CAN'T LET IT SHAKE ME...
IT'S JUST A SHORT CALL...
CALM DOWN.
splash

splat
...YEAH RIGHT...
splash
slide
splat
WITH THIS HAPPENING...
PLOP
I CAN'T ...
EVEN SAY THAT.

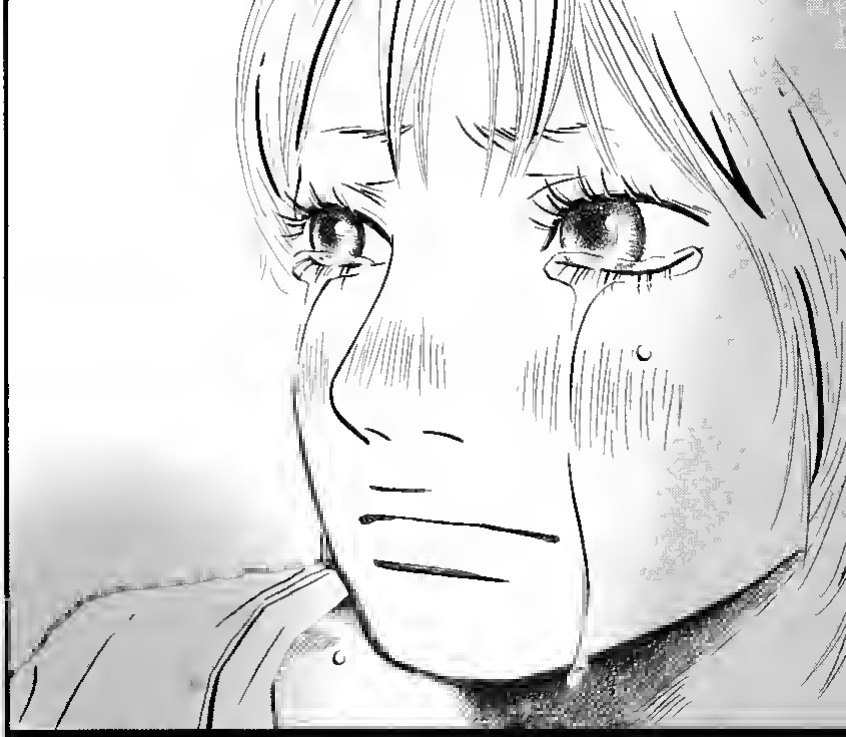

THE REALITY IS RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES.
B
I
R
TH

FEAR IS RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES.

BUT——

beep
SSS

—MY HEART
...
BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
BDMP
...THIS...
ISN'T A TRICK.
THIS STUFF...
...IS RACING.
ISN'T SOMETHING A HUMAN COULD DO.
BDMP



CAN WE FIGHT OFF OUR RAGE, HATRED, AND SORROW?

IN THIS CRUEL WORLD,

SO JUST HOW,

WE LIVE ON UNABLE TO GET RID OF THESE FEELINGS.

SOMEONE,
TELL ME.

I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT VERY WELL.

THAT'S WHAT THEY TOLD ME AFTERWARD.

AND A WHOLE BUNCH OF PEOPLE HAD BODY PARTS DISAPPEAR.

THAT DAY, A WHOLE BUNCH OF PEOPLE RECEIVED "DOWN" EMAILS,

THAT'S RIGHT.

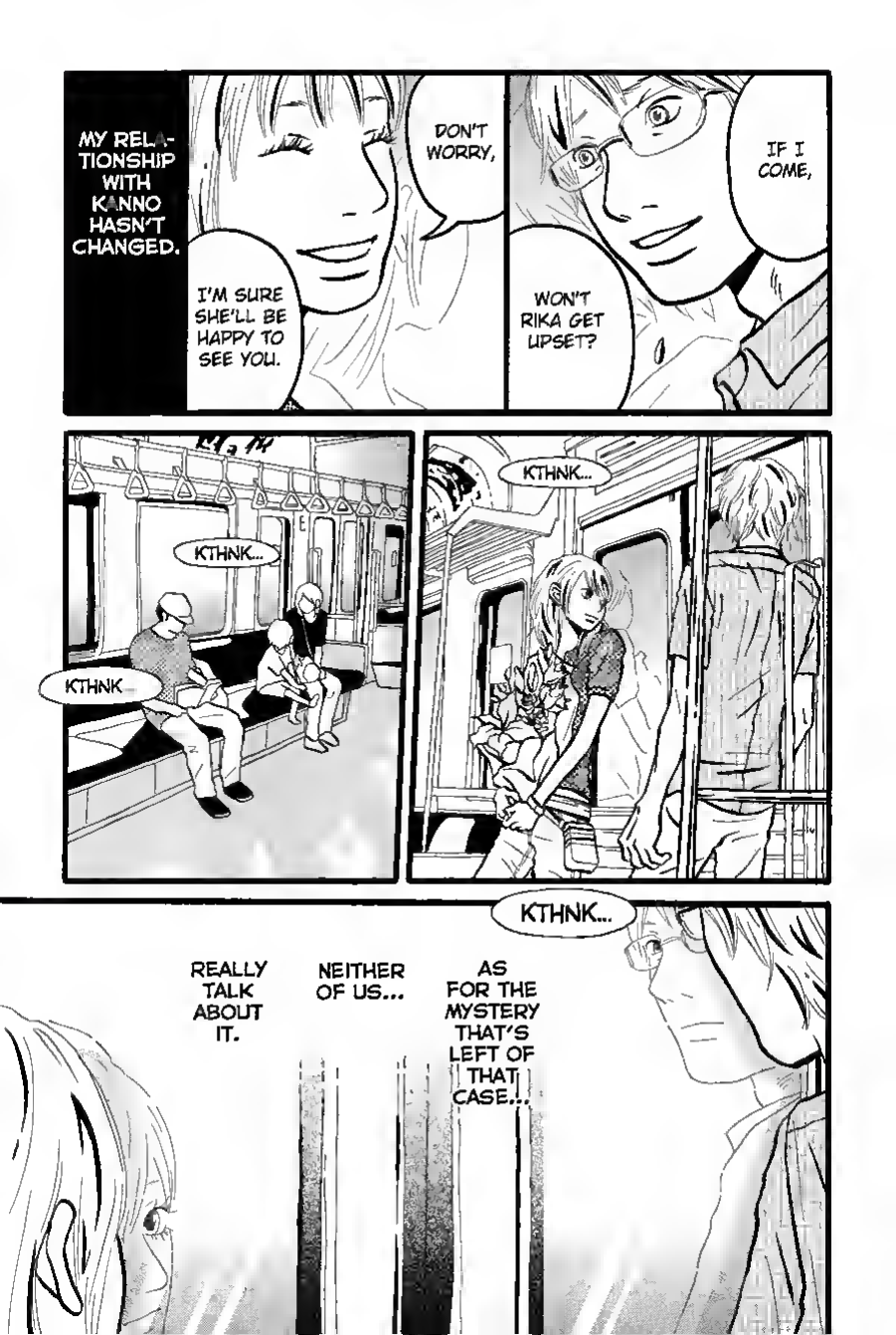
THE CASE WENT COLD.

WITHOUT ANY RESOLUTION,

BUT AT THE END OF THE DAY, "DOWN" EMAILS STOPPED COMING.

IT'S BEEN NEARLY SIX MONTHS SINCE THEN——
CLACK
...MAYUMI.

AND I MANAGED TO GET INTO A UNIVERSITY...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MAYUMI?
WHAT'S THE BOUQUET FOR?
KANNO RETURNED TO WORK WITHOUT A PROBLEM.
IS IT THAT OBVIOUS?
HUH...
WERE YOU SLEEPING?
I HAVE TODAY OFF. IT'S ALREADY 2P
KANNO, DO YOU...
HAVE ANY PLANS FOR TODAY?
MAYUMI...


MY RELATIONSHIP WITH KANNO HASN'T CHANGED.
I'M SURE SHE'LL BE HAPPY TO SEE YOU.
DON'T WORRY,
WON'T RIKA GET UPSET?
IF I COME,
KTHNK...
KTHNK...
KTHNK...
KTHNK...
REALLY TALK ABOUT IT.
NEITHER OF US...
AS FOR THE MYSTERY THAT'S LEFT OF THAT CASE...

whistle
YEAH, YOU CAN.
YOU CAN SEE THE SEA.
AH, HERE'S OUR STOP.
SINCE ...
IT'S OVER.
You've got mail.

You've got mail.
click
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE OVER.

Motto, Ikitai

Scanned and translated by Kalendel
Cleaned by Lilied
Redrawn by Voo
Typeset by YukinoJen

www.stormfeaven.org

[Chapter 47

Motto, Ikitai...

MY PARENTS WERE HIT BY AN UNLICENSED DRIVER AND DIED.

WHEN I WAS THIRTEEN,

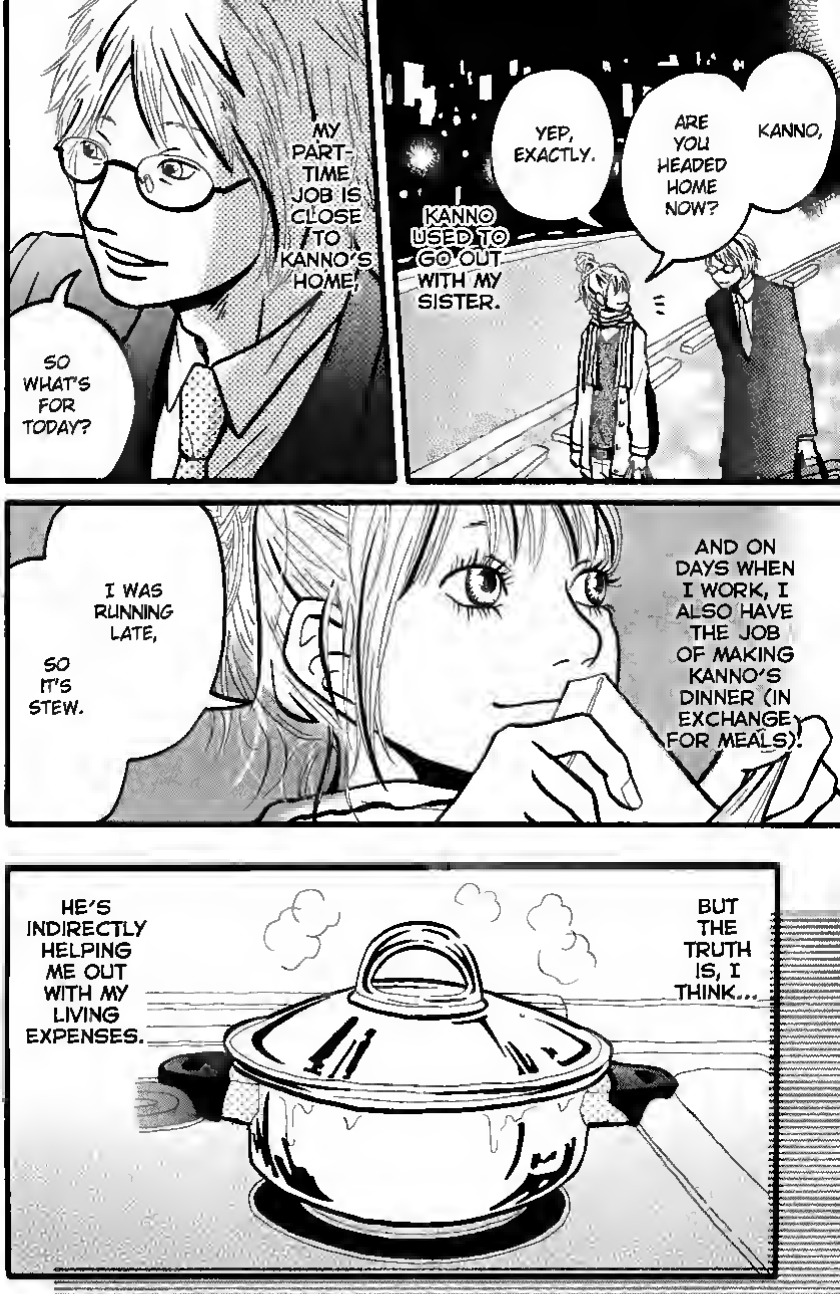
MY SISTER BECAME THE VICTIM OF A STRANGE CRIME.

WHEN I WAS EIGHTEEN,

I HAVE NO HOPE OF UNDERSTANDING THESE IRRATIONAL, UNREASONABLE EVENTS...

I HAVE NO HOPE AGAINST IT.

AND FIGHTING THEM.
TODAY, I'M STILL... BREATHING.
GOOD WORK TODAY.
I'M TAKAHASHI MAYUMI, NOW 19.
IT'S BEEN DANGEROUS LATELY, SO BE CAREFUL.
YOU TOO.
OK.
Nov 2nd
MAJOR
GIRLS
ANOTHER
PUZZLI
MAYUMI.


MY PART-TIME JOB IS CLOSE TO KANNO'S HOME!
SO WHAT'S FOR TODAY?
KANNO USED TO GO OUT WITH MY SISTER.
YEP, EXACTLY.
ARE YOU HEADED HOME NOW?
KANNO,
I WAS RUNNING LATE,
SO IT'S STEW.
AND ON DAYS WHEN I WORK, I ALSO HAVE THE JOB OF MAKING KANNO'S DINNER (IN EXCHANGE FOR MEALS).
HE'S INDIRECTLY HELPING ME OUT WITH MY LIVING EXPENSES.
BUT THE TRUTH IS, I THINK...

IT KIND OF FEELS LIKE HAVING AN OLDER BROTHER.
HOW... HAS RIKA BEEN LATELY?
YEAH... THE SAME AS ALWAYS.
LAST WINTER, THERE WAS A SERIES OF STRANGE INCIDENTS...
Subject: DOWN
Toes
WHERE IF YOU OPENED A "DOWN" EMAIL, THE BODY PART WRITTEN IN THERE WOULD DIS-APPEAR.
KANNO AND I WENT THROUGH THAT STORM.
MY SISTER WAS THE FIRST VICTIM OF THE "DOWN CASE".
HER PHYSICAL DAMAGE WAS HIGHLY EMOTIO-NALLY TRAUMA-TIZING,
AND SHE'S EVEN NOW RECUPE-RATING AT A RELATIVE'S HOUSE.

AND WITHOUT US KNOWING THE TRUE NATURE OF THE THINGS WE WITNESSED.

THE INCIDENTS ENDED BEFORE WE FOUND OUT WHO WAS BEHIND THEM,

NOW WE'VE REACHED THE PRESENT.

HOW'S COLLEGE?

DO YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON ANYONE?

THAT'S OUT OF THE BLUE.

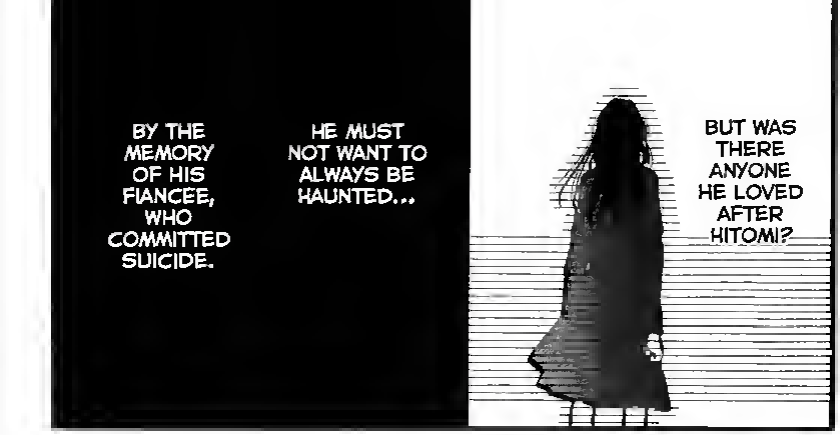
NOPE, I DON'T.

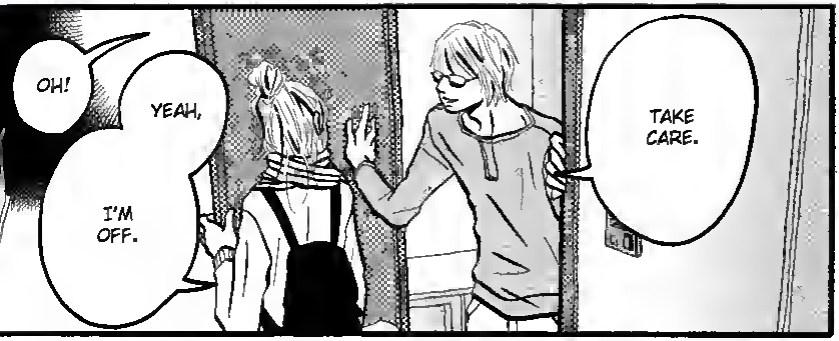
HUH.

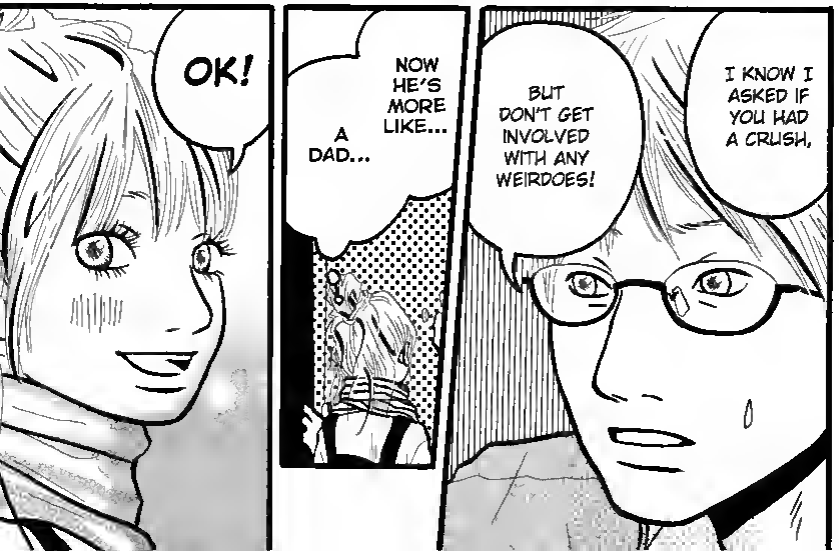
YOU'RE YOUNG, YOU SHOULD BE IN LOVE.

YOU SHOULD TALK...

SORRY TO SAY THIS, SIS...


BUT WAS THERE ANYONE HE LOVED AFTER HITOMI?
HE MUST NOT WANT TO ALWAYS BE HAUNTED...
BY THE MEMORY OF HIS FIANCEE, WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE.


TAKE CARE.
OH!
YEAH,
I'M OFF.


I KNOW I ASKED IF YOU HAD A CRUSH,
BUT DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH ANY WEIRDOES!
NOW HE'S MORE LIKE... A DAD...
OK!

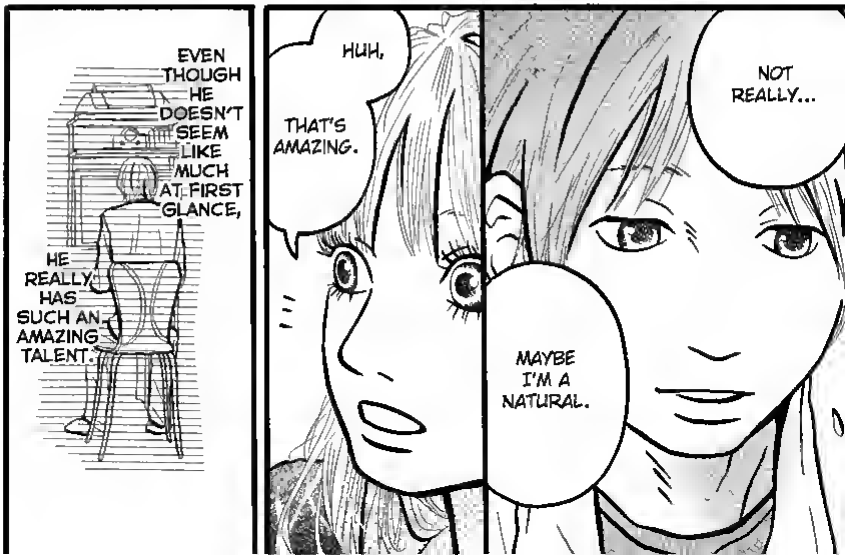
CRAP,
I OVER-SLEPT!
LOVE... IS SOME-THING I STILL DON'T WANT.

...
DID YOU TRANSFER ...
IN?
...YEAH.
HUH...
OH, IS IT?
IS...
IT?
...WHAT'S WRONG?
THIS IS DR. TANAKA'S SEMINAR.
.....
DO YOU HAVE THE TEXTBOOK?
.....
... SURE.
IF YOU'RE FEELING SHY, WANT TO GO IN WITH ME?

MORNING, MAYUMI!
WHAT A WEIRDO.
WHAT'S THAT?
MORNING.
I HEARD THE NEXT LECTURE IS CANCELLED.
SO... LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE A BREAK.
HUH, IS SOMETHING GOING ON?
WHAT IS IT?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
THERE'S SOMEONE RUNNING ON PAR WITH KATOU FROM TRACK AND FIELD.
WHAT? WITH KATOU?
THAT'S AMAZING. WHO IS IT?

IT'S THAT KID.
HUH?

EVEN WHEN HE ISN'T ACTING STRANGE ...
clack
S— SURE.
AH!
YOU'RE THE GIRL FROM CLASS...
IS THIS SEAT TAKEN?
DO YOU DO TRACK AND FIELD?
YOU'RE FAST.
I SAW YOU EARLIER.

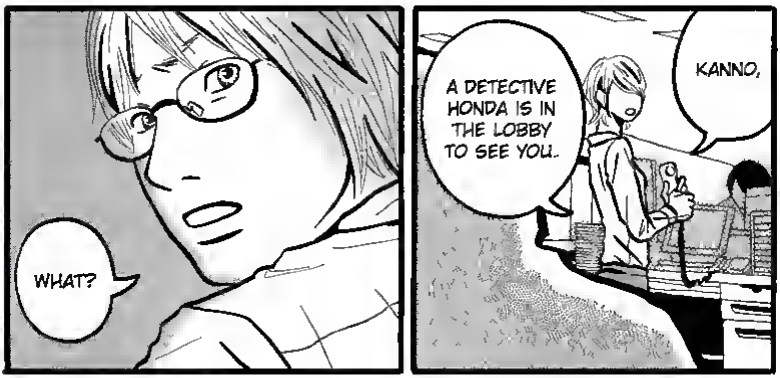

EVEN THOUGH HE DOESN'T SEEM LIKE MUCH AT FIRST GLANCE,
HE REALLY HAS SUCH AN AMAZING TALENT.
HUH, THAT'S AMAZING.
NOT REALLY...
MAYBE I'M A NATURAL.

HEY,
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
.....
GOOD-BYE...
UM,
CLACK
HE'S A LITTLE LIKE KANNO.
HM?
.....
HUH?
TAJIMA... RYOU.
SO TAJIMA, SINCE YOU'RE NEW HERE AND DON'T KNOW ANYONE,
WANT TO HANG OUT?
WE COULD...
TALK SOME MORE?
AM I...
SAYING THIS?

...SURE!
BUT I REALLY ...
I'M SURPRISING MYSELF.
AND HE WAS LEAVING, TOO.
WHY WOULD I SAY THAT?
...
TO TALK TO HIM SOME MORE.
DO WANT ...
beep
rrrr

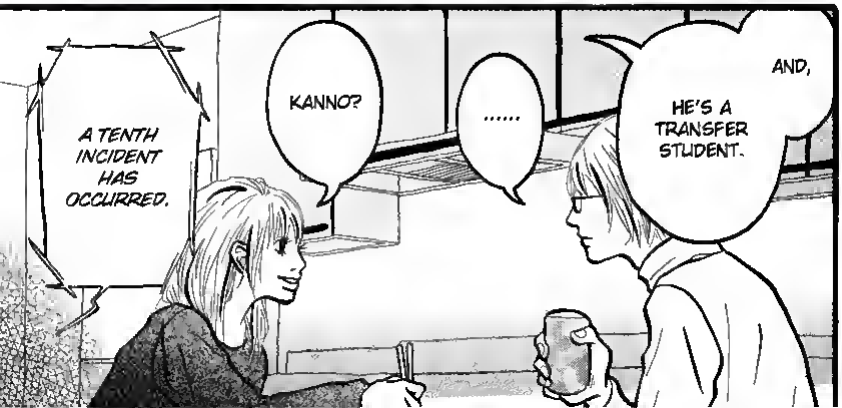
HEY?
FLOP
AN EMAIL? FROM WHO?
HUH? WHAT IS IT?
.....
HEY!
CRASH
WHAT IS IT!?

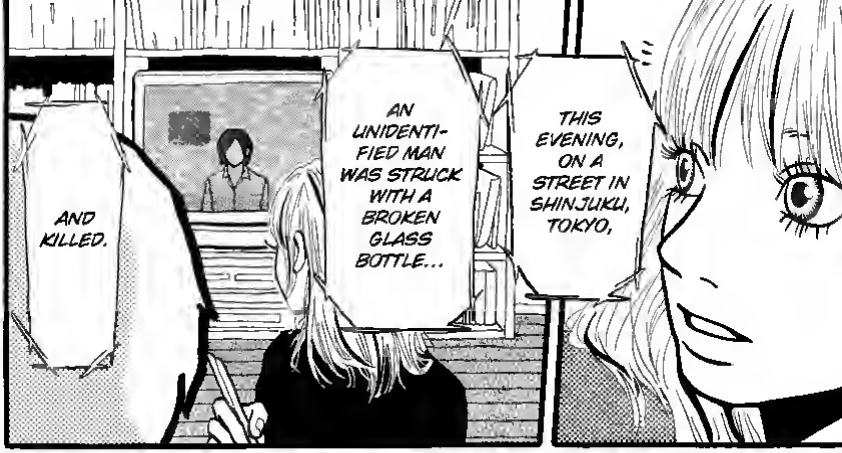
Cyberphone
Corporation


WHAT?
A DETECTIVE HONDA IS IN THE LOBBY TO SEE YOU..
KANNO,

...HELLO.
IT'S BEEN SOME TIME,
MR. KANNO.

THAT GUY
HE'S A LITTLE WEIRD.

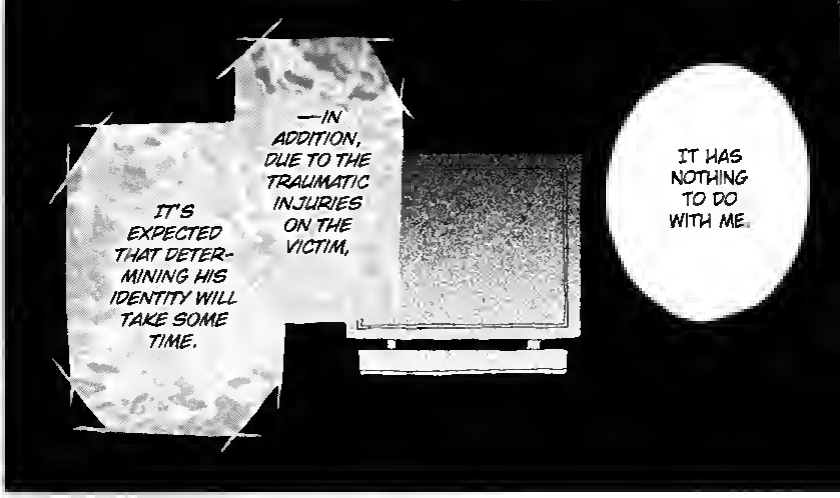

A TENTH INCIDENT HAS OCCURRED.
KANNO?
.....
AND, HE'S A TRANSFER STUDENT.

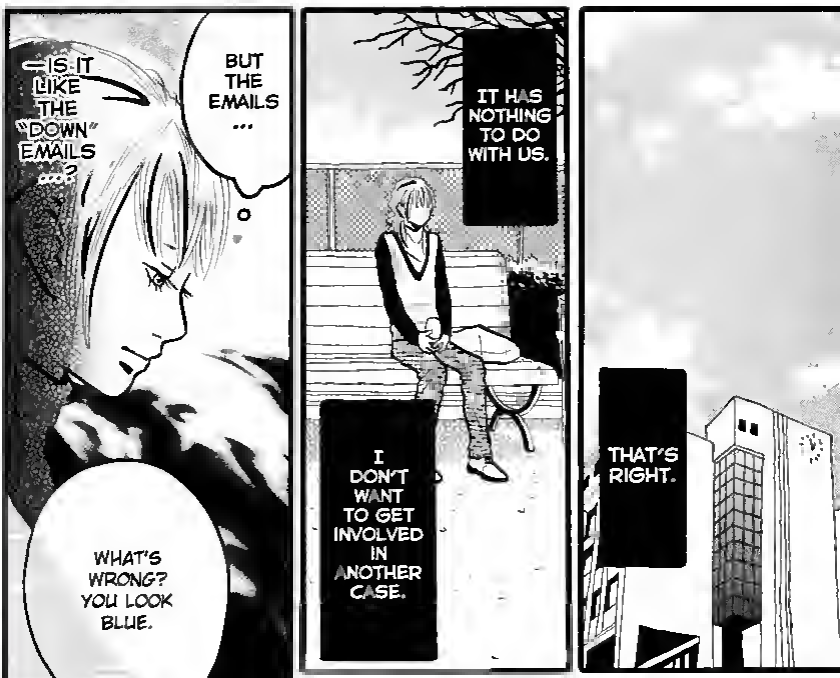

THIS EVENING, ON A STREET IN SHINJUKU, TOKYO,
AN UNIDENTI-FIED MAN WAS STRUCK WITH A BROKEN GLASS BOTTLE...
AND KILLED.

A 17 YEAR OLD FEMALE STUDENT...
FROM A SCHOOL IN THE CITY WAS ARRESTED AT THE SCENE.
ACCORDING TO THE OFFICERS ON DUTY,
SHE HAS NO RECOLLECTION OF COMMITTING THE CRIME.

.THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF THAT LATELY.
WE HAVE INTERVIEWED A BOY WHO WITNESSED THE CRIME.
.....
—SHE GOT AN EMAIL.

SHE... WAS MUTTERING SOME-THING.
SHE SUDDENLY ATTACKED THE GUY.
RIGHT AFTER SHE LOOKED AT IT,
AN EMAIL ...
bdmp
—TO BE HONEST...
—AND?
I REFUSED.
HUH...
DETECTIVE HONDA CAME TO MY COMPANY TODAY,
AND ASKED FOR MY HELP IN THE INVES-TIGATION OF THAT CASE.
THE PHONE THEY CONFISCATED WAS BLOODY,
AND WITH THE DATA GONE, IT WOULDN'T BE MUCH HELP IN THE CASE...
AND...
.....


IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
—IN ADDITION, DUE TO THE TRAUMATIC INJURIES ON THE VICTIM,
IT'S EXPECTED THAT DETERMINING HIS IDENTITY WILL TAKE SOME TIME.


—IS IT LIKE THE "DOWN" EMAILS ...?
BUT THE EMAILS ...
WHAT'S WRONG? YOU LOOK BLUE.
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH US.
I DON'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN ANOTHER CASE.
THAT'S RIGHT.

AH!
.....
MORNING. DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
TAJIMA. MORNING.
NO, IT'S NOTHING.
ANTS!
AH!
HE REALLY IS... STRANGE.
HEY, THERE ARE ANTS.
..... YEAH, ANTS.

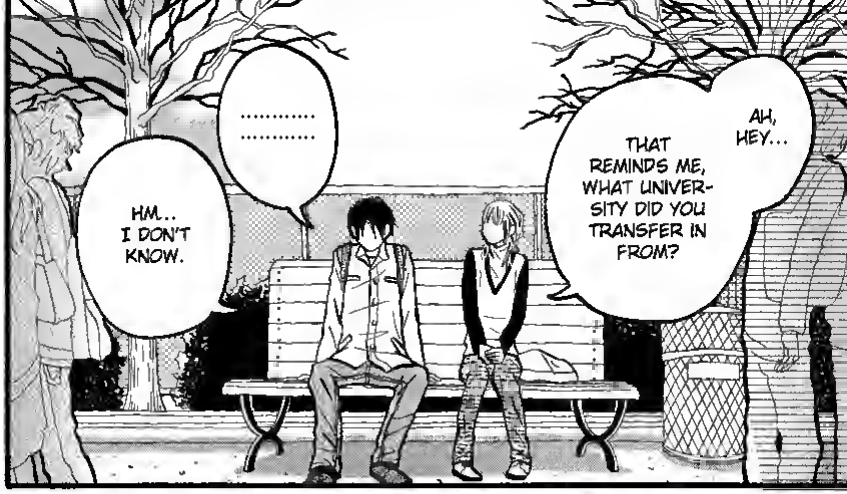
A LEAF!
...RIGHT.
THEY'RE PRETTY COMMON TOO, RIGHT.
IS HE...
TRYING TO CHEER ME UP?
.....

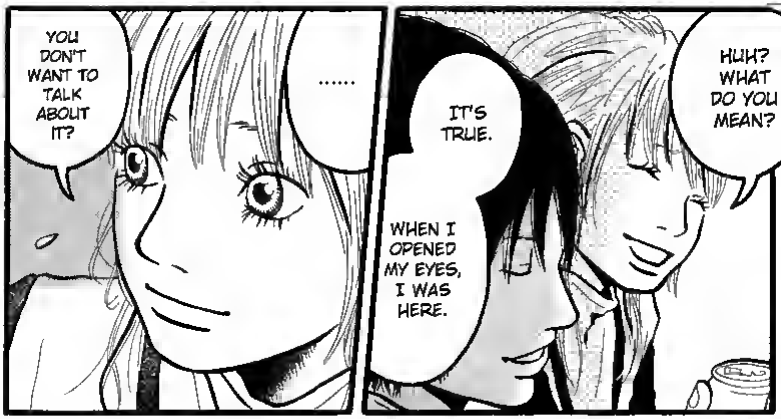
REALLY!?
GREAT!
HAHA ...
HAHA!
... PAH!
HE SUCKS AT IT!
THANKS, THAT CHEERED ME UP.
HUH?

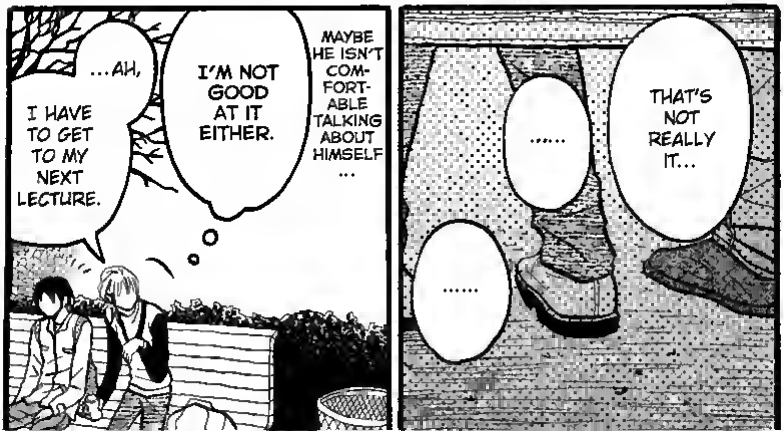
ring
WHOSE IS THAT? TURN THEM OFF IN CLASS.
00 Middle School
HEY, SAVE THAT FOR BREAK TIME!
HIDE IT!
IS THAT BLOOD?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR HAND?
HM?

NO, I LIVE ALONE.
HUH?
YOU'RE 23?
YEAH, THAT'S WHAT'S WRITTEN ON MY STUDENT ID.
OH, SAME HERE.
HAHA, WHAT'S WRITTEN ...
SO, NEXT TIME AROUND...
YOU DON'T LOOK IT.

SURE!
WANT TO GO HANG OUT SOMEWHERE?

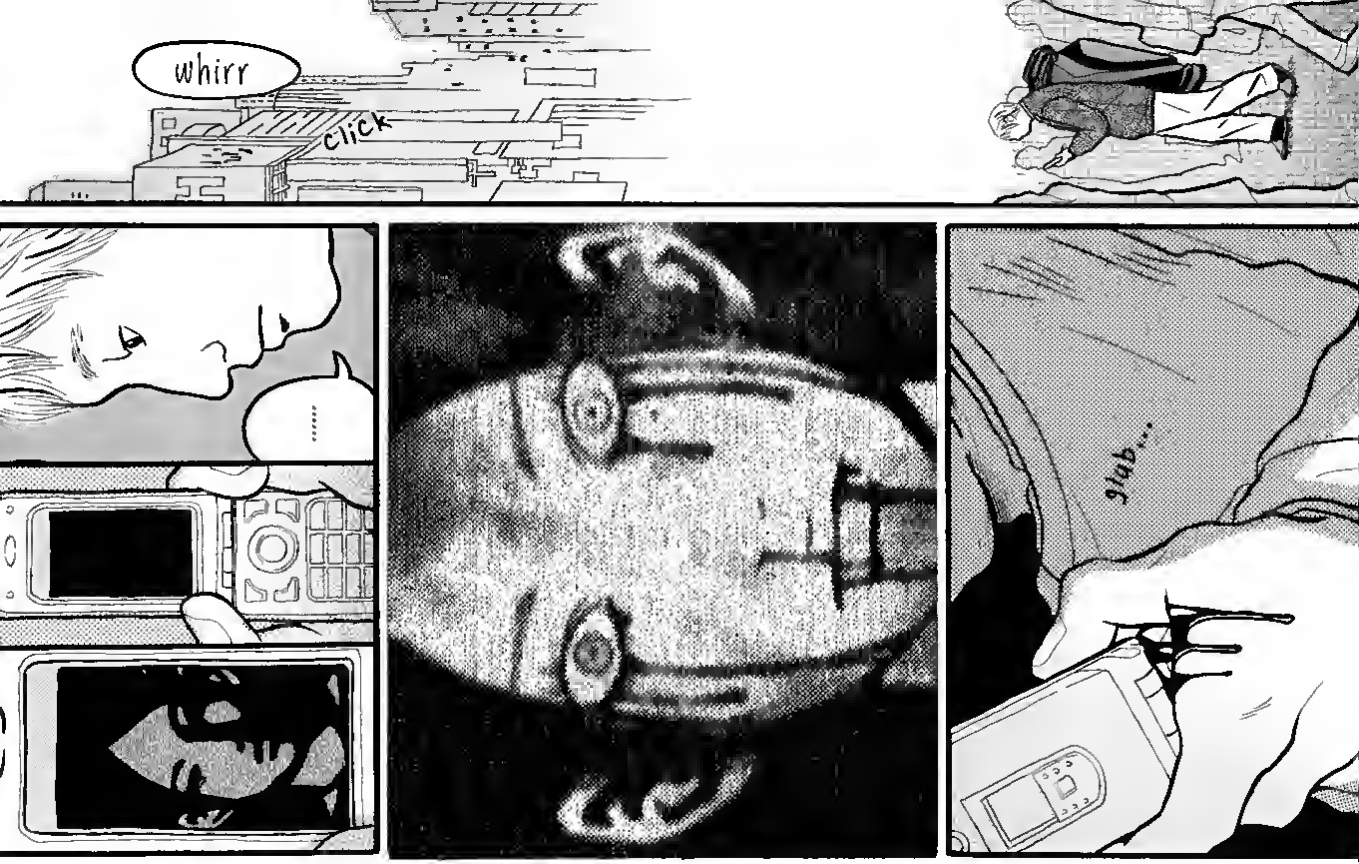

.....
.....
HM... I DON'T KNOW.
AH, HEY...
THAT REMINDS ME, WHAT UNIVERSITY DID YOU TRANSFER IN FROM?

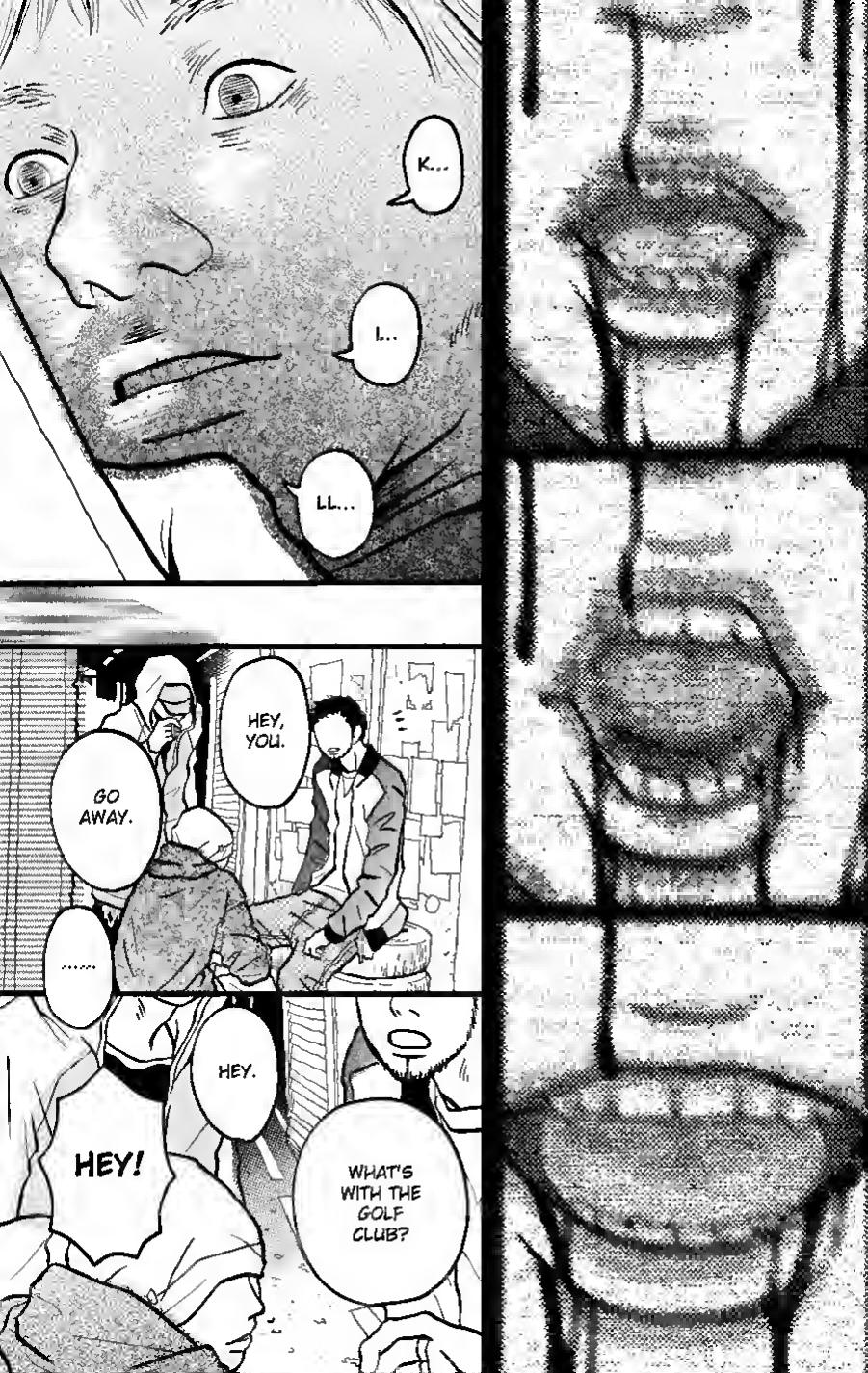

YOU DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT?
.....
IT'S TRUE.
WHEN I OPENED MY EYES, I WAS HERE.
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


...AH, I HAVE TO GET TO MY NEXT LECTURE.
I'M NOT GOOD AT IT EITHER.
MAYBE HE ISN'T COMFORTABLE TALKING ABOUT HIMSELF ...
.....
.....
THAT'S NOT REALLY IT...

blush
ASKED TO HANG OUT WITH HIM AGAIN, DIDN'T I...?
I REALLY ... DON'T KNOW.
THAT'S RIGHT, I JUST...
SORRY...
...
MAYUMI!
I'LL SEE YOU LATER.

WHO...
AM I?

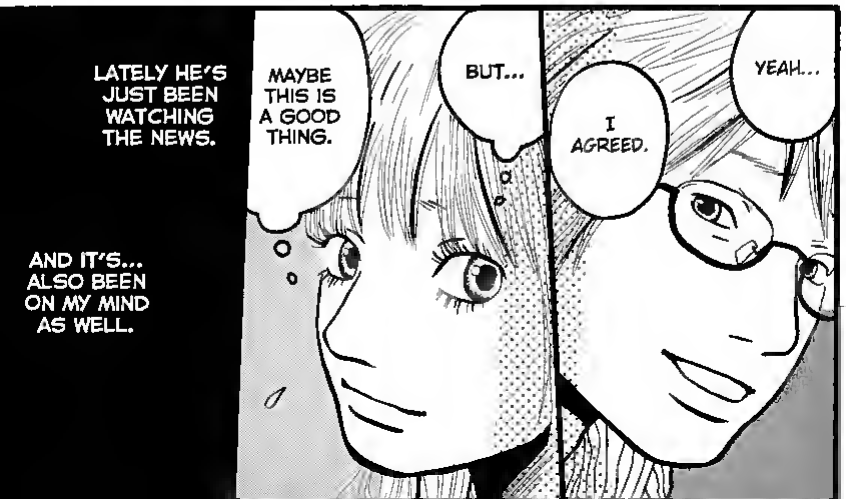

whirr
click
.....
glub...


K...
I...
LL...
HEY, YOU.
GO AWAY.
.....
HEY.
HEY!
WHAT'S WITH THE GOLF CLUB?

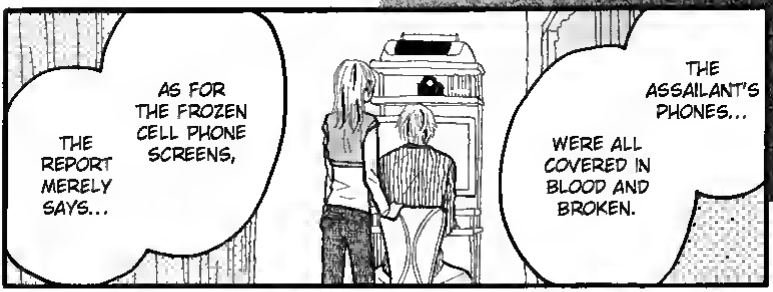
rtng
YEAH?
AND THE TRANSFER STUDENT...
DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE SAID?
MM?
THE INCIDENCE IS INCREASING.
THERE HAVE BEEN ANOTHER SIX CASES IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS.

.....
IS AN OFFICIAL REQUEST.
THIS ...
MR. KANNO

I UNDER-STAND.
PLEASE EMAIL ME ...
YOUR INFORMATION ON THE CASE.
KANNO, WAS THAT...?
CLICK


LATELY HE'S JUST BEEN WATCHING THE NEWS.
AND IT'S... ALSO BEEN ON MY MIND AS WELL.
MAYBE THIS IS A GOOD THING.
BUT...
I AGREED.
YEAH...

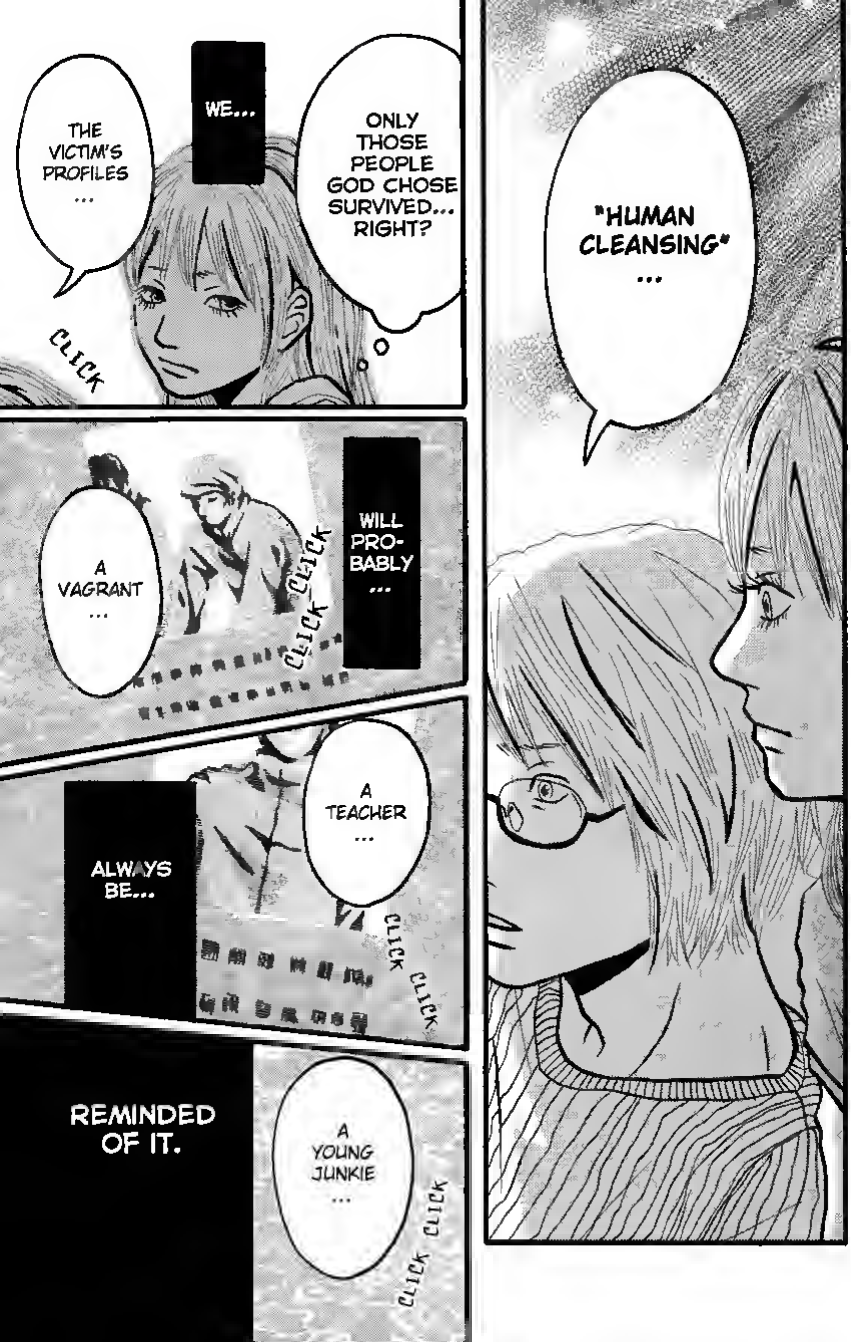
LET'S WORK ON IT TOGETHER!
...I'M SURE YOU'LL FIGURE IT OUT SOON.


THE ASSAILANT'S PHONES...
WERE ALL COVERED IN BLOOD AND BROKEN.
AS FOR THE FROZEN CELL PHONE SCREENS,
THE REPORT MERELY SAYS...

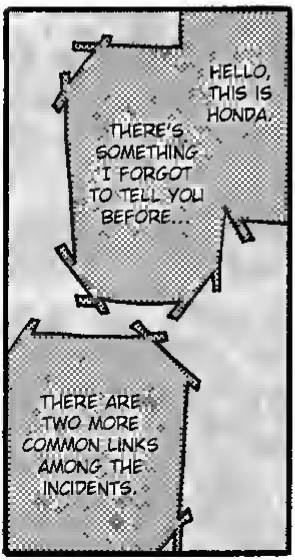
THAT THE EMAILS ...
WERE BLANK.
BLANK...
SO IT'S NOT "DOWN" EMAILS ...?
Ahem
I THINK TRACKING DOWN...
THE SENDER WILL TAKE SOME TIME...
OH, THEN I'LL...
GO MAKE DINNER.

MAYUMI...
I FOUND THE SENDER.
HUH?
SO SOON?
THEY ALL COME FROM THE SAME ADDRESS...
AND THERE AREN'T ANY TRACES OF A COVER-UP...
AT ALL.
Noah's Ark
ENTER
IT'S A WEBSITE FORMATTED FOR CELL PHONES.

HUH?
IS THAT... ALL THE SITE IS?
HM?
CLICK
SO THE SITE'S MANAGER DID IT...?
IT WAS A LIFEBOAT.
THAT'S IN THE BIBLE.
"NOAH'S ARK"... I'M SURE...
—IT CAN'T BE...
WERE PUT ON BOARD...
ON THE DAY THE WORLD FLOODED, SELECT HUMANS AND ANIMALS...
Noah's Ark
Recruiting E-Zine Members
Apply
WHAT IS THIS SITE?


"HUMAN CLEANSING" ...
ONLY THOSE PEOPLE GOD CHOSE SURVIVED... RIGHT?
WE...
THE VICTIM'S PROFILES ...
CLICK
WILL PRO-BABLY ...
A VAGRANT ...
CLICK CLICK
A TEACHER ...
ALWAYS BE...
CLICK CLICK
A YOUNG JUNKIE ...
CLICK CLICK
REMINDED OF IT.

—"JESUS".
THE A.I. PROGRAM THAT WAS BY ALL ACCOUNTS DESTROYED LAST CHRISTMAS.

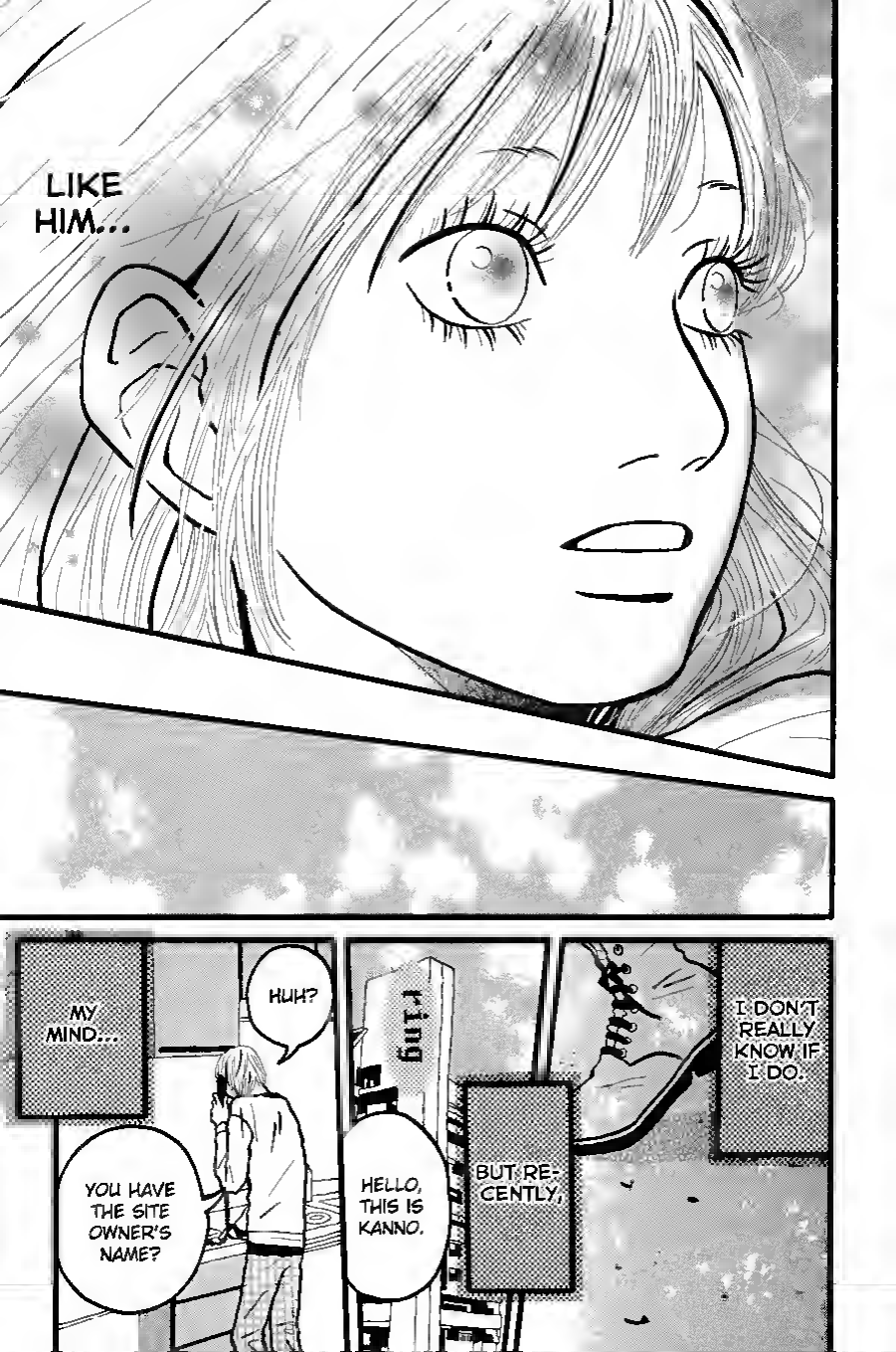

HELLO, THIS IS HONDA.
THERE'S SOMETHING I FORGOT TO TELL YOU BEFORE...
THERE ARE TWO MORE COMMON LINKS AMONG THE INCIDENTS.

r.i.ng
PEOPLE THE "CULPRIT" JUST DEEMED UNNECESSARY.
THEY'RE MOST LIKELY...

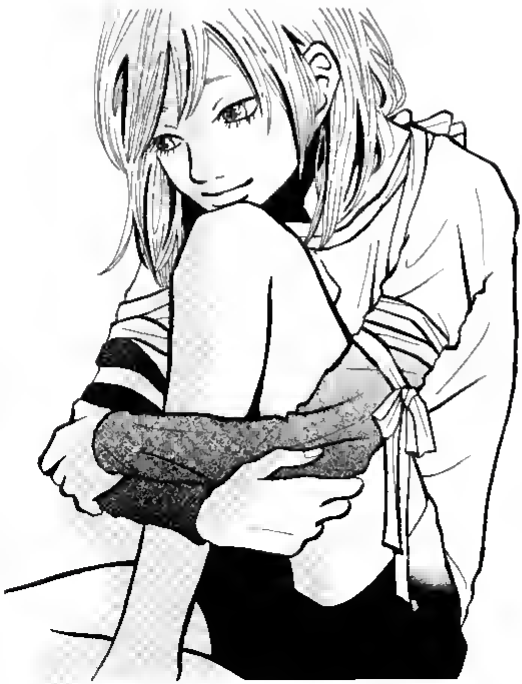
THE FIRST IS THAT AFTER THE ASSAULT, ALL OF THE ATTACKERS
SEEM TO HAVE MUTTERED "LISE_ESS"
HUMAN CLEANSING ...
THE SECOND THING IS THAT THE BLOOD AT THE CRIME SCENE...
INCLUDED BLOOD THAT WASN'T FROM THE ASSAILANT OR VICTIM.
...
WAS ANYONE ELSE IN THE AREA HURT?
NO?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT, MR. HONDA.
I'D LIKE YOU TO LOOK INTO THE OWNER OF A CELL PHONE SITE.
—GOT IT. IT'S TOO LATE IN THE DAY TODAY,
BUT TOMORROW I'LL GO ASK THE SERVICE PROVIDER.
THANK YOU.
TOMORROW...

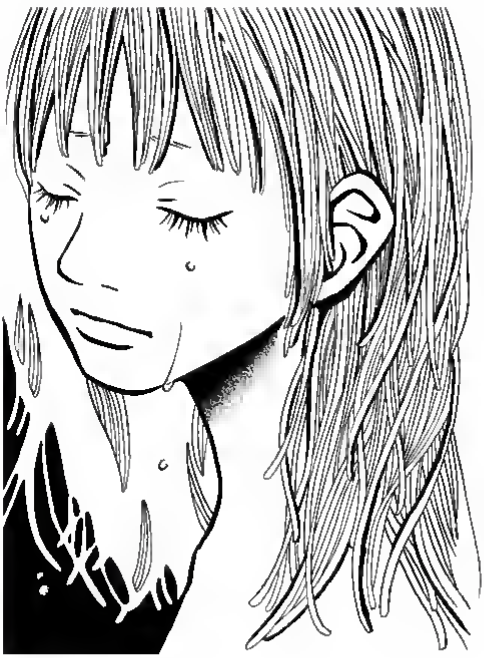
CLACK
TOMORROW IS SUNDAY.
WHAT WILL YOU DO, MAYUMI?
TOMORROW ... I HAD PLANS...
TO GO TO A FRIEND'S PLACE.
BUT... I DON'T KNOW.
BUT—
THIS CASE IS BOTHERING ME.

MAYUMI,
YOU LIKE HIM, DON'T YOU?
A FRIEND...
DON'T TELL ME IT'S THAT TRANSFER STUDENT YOU'VE BEEN TALKING A LOT ABOUT LATELY?
YOU HAVE TO GO.


LIKE HIM...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW IF I DO.
BUT RECENTLY,
ring
HELLO, THIS IS KANNO.
HUH?
MY MIND...
YOU HAVE THE SITE OWNER'S NAME?

HAS BEEN FILLED WITH TAJIMA.
—A 23 YEAR OLD UNI-VERSITY STUDENT,
TAJIMA ...
RYOU...
<To Be Continued>





Motto, Ikitai

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